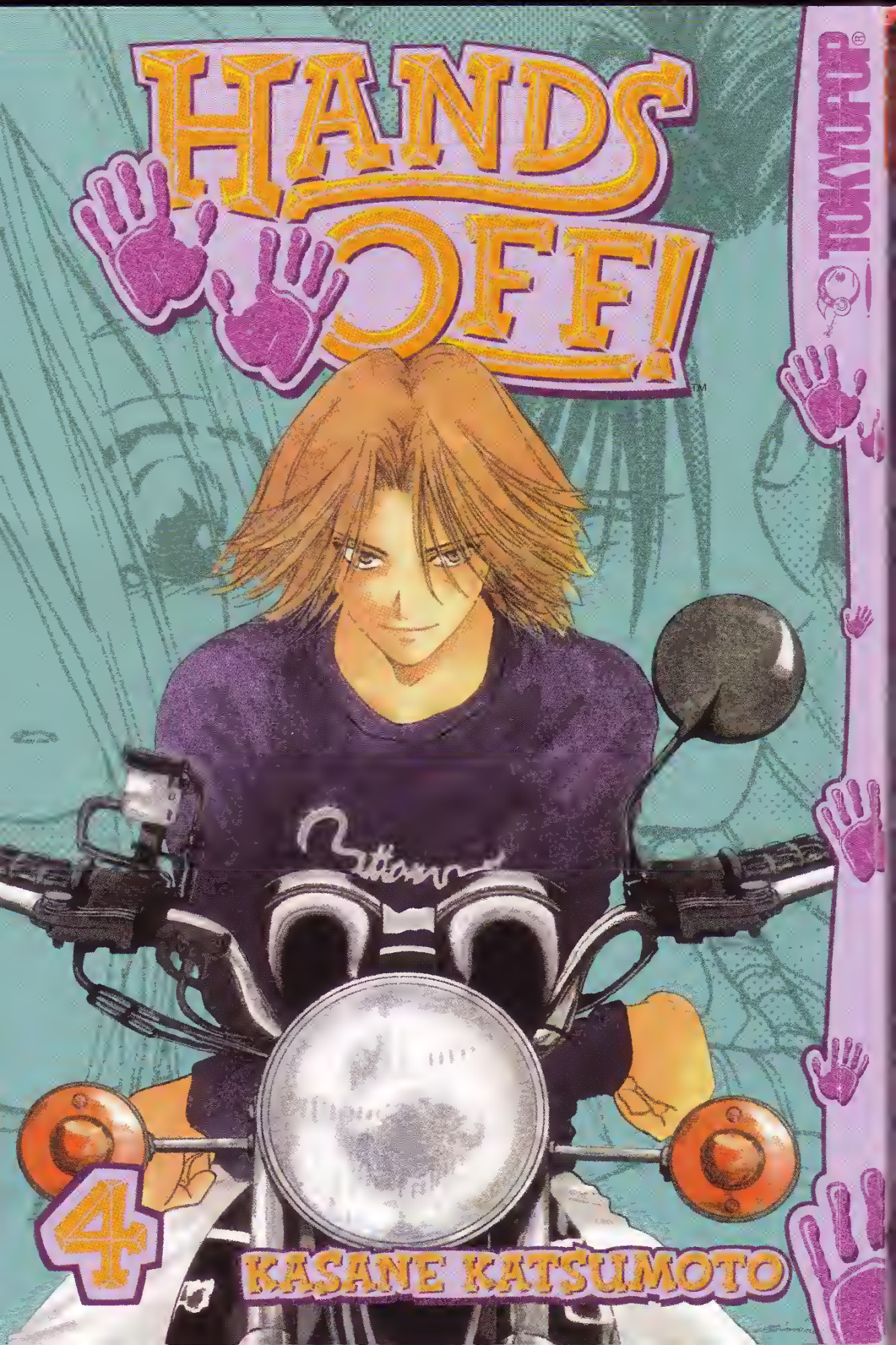
紫色の潔白

Purple Innocence

DO NOT REDISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION.

I'LL BE WATCHING...

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!!


HANDS OFF!
4
KASANE KATSUMOTO
TOKYOPOP

Volume 4

by

Kasane Katsumoto

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Hands Off! Vol. 4

Created by Kasane Katsumoto

Translation - Asuka Yoshizu
English Adaptation - Lianne Sentar
Copy Editor - Suzanne Waldman
Retouch and Lettering - Benchcomix
Production Artist - Eric Pineda
Cover Design - Seth Cable

Editor - Lillian Diaz-Przybyt
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Press Manager - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller and Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
Editor-in-Chief - Mike Kiley
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher and C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

A TOKYOPOP Manga

TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: Info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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CHARACTERS & STORY

YUTO URUSHIYAMA

漆山佑人

A classmate to Kotarou and Tatsuki. Friendly but a bit of a goofball, Yuuto can analyze people by reading their emotional auras (and hence is also a psychic). Is still trying to determine exactly what sort of power Tatsuki and Kotarou have.

TATSUKI ODAIRA

大平竜樹

Kotarou's cousin. Kotarou unknowingly gave him post cognition when they were kids. Since Tatsuki hates the power, he's less than friendly toward Kotarou.

KOTARO ODAIRA

大平虎太郎

A high school freshman who despises his effeminacy. Kotarou has some sort of special touch based ESP, but he's still unaware of it. Currently dating Mio.

Akira transferring to Tokyo to escape the cruel all-boys high school, [illegible] by Kotarou Odaira has found himself with a new problem. He's a wanted[illegible]ning yet. Every night dangerous going on in Tokyo seems to drag him into the fray, and his flippant friend Hana and angry cousin Tatsuki remain in constant rescue duty. This is more than a self-[illegible]ng for Kotarou, who wants to prove more than anything that he's more masculine than his girly looks imply. Just [illegible] becomes [illegible] missing, Kotarou's not doing well in the quest for manliness.

After the mysterious student teacher Odaira left Tatsuki with some cryptic words about the weight of ESP, Tatsuki was himself evidently unable to see the past. When Kotarou arrived up Curiously kidnapped again, Tatsuki's overwhelming desire to find him broke Odaira's power blocks and unleashed the [illegible]ganbren. Unfortunately, a latter-mystery involving the nosy photographer Karan proved Tatsuki's psychic instability; not only did his powers start manifesting wildly, but touching Kotarou resulted in stranger and stranger missions. Throw a strange kid named Akira into the mix, and the Tokyo Espers' [illegible] their weaknesses very busy.

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OH...
UM, OKAY
GOOD LITTLE BOYS GET THEIR REST WHEN THEY'RE SICK. SO LIE BACK DOWN. ♡

M-MIO!
I DIDN'T MEAN-- EEP!

Y'think? Nah.
KOTAROU... YOU ABSOLUTE FIEND YOU. THAT GIRL'S GOT ASSETS!

CIAO ♡

RELAX-- I'M KIDDING! ♡
Ha ha!
THIS NURSE

WHA?!
MISS NONOMURA!
GLARE
I'D LOVE TO !★#@ HIM SENSELESS. ♡

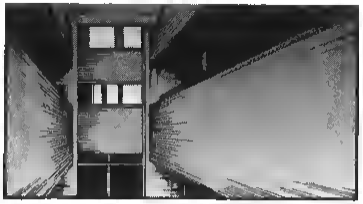
SIIIGH WHAT AN ABSOLUTE DARLING
WHO, OOHIRA?

SHOOT ME.
I'M KOTAROU OOHIRA, AGE 15
AND I'M BORED OUT OF MY MIND

RATTLE
UH-OH
SOMEONE'S BEING NAUGHTY!

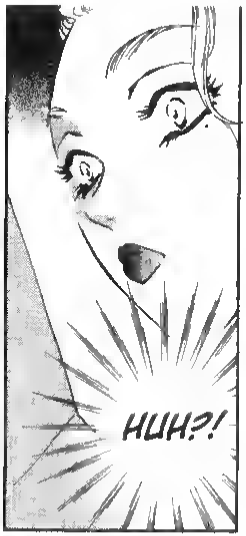
Hee.
YOUR LITTLE FRIEND'S ADORABLE, KOTAROU.
Pass!
AKIRA, WANNA PLAY BASKET-BALL?
I TAKE IT HE'S THAT KID FROM YOUR NEIGHBOR-HOOD?
WOO!

Hello, nurse!
BACK TO BED WITH YOU, TIGER
UH...

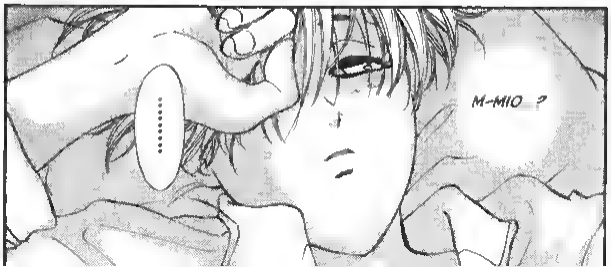


NNN
SOMETHING SMELLS SWEET

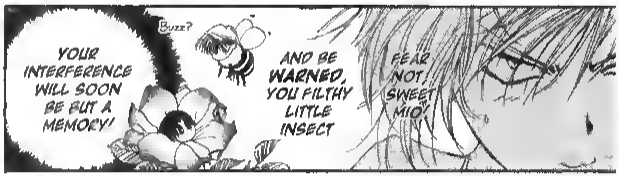
hup


HUH?!

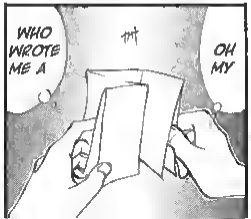
SOMEONE'S HERE...?
A GIRL?
A GENTLE HAND...

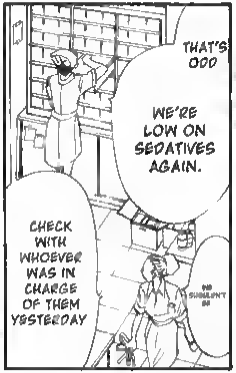

M-MIO...?
.....

I SHALL USE HER!
GUNGNI


YOUR INTERFERENCE WILL SOON BE BUT A MEMORY!
Buzz?
AND BE WARNED, YOU FILTHY LITTLE INSECT
FEAR NOT, SWEET MIO!

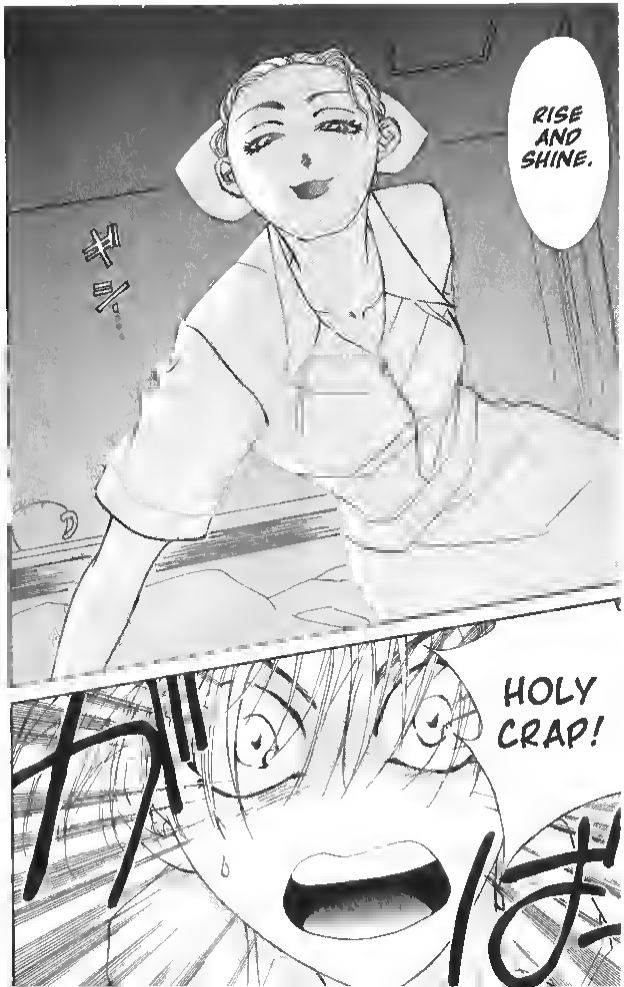
HM?
rustle


WHO WROTE ME A
OH MY


THAT'S OOO
WE'RE LOW ON SEDATIVES AGAIN.
CHECK WITH WHOEVER WAS IN CHARGE OF THEM YESTERDAY
NO SUBSTANCE NO

HUH?

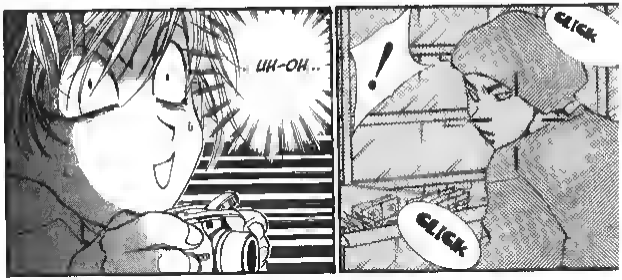
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAD THE GUTS TO SEND ME A LETTER LIKE THAT ♡
I DIDN'T TAKE YOU FOR THE RISKY TYPE
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL?!
CREAK
SHH!
THEY'LL HEAR US
THIS ISN'T HOSPITAL POLICY!
WHAT LETTER?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
rattle
?
NOW FOR A FEW PHOTOGRAPHS, A VISIT TO MIO-SENPAI, AND MY MISCHIEVOUSNESS WILL BE COMPLETE!
THAT DIRTY NOTE WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS.
MWEE HEE HEE

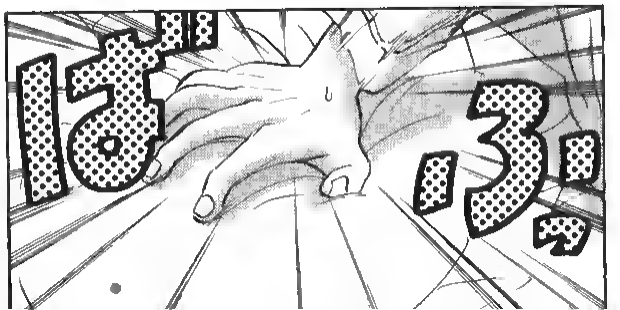

RISE AND SHINE.
HOLY CRAP!

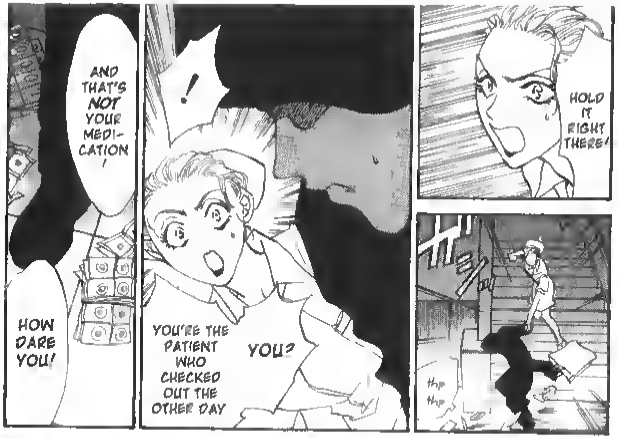
NO! NO!
YES, YES ♡
W-W-W-WAIT A SECOND, MISS! YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!
I NEVER WROTE ANY LETTER!
THAT'S THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK ♡
DID YOU HEAR THAT?

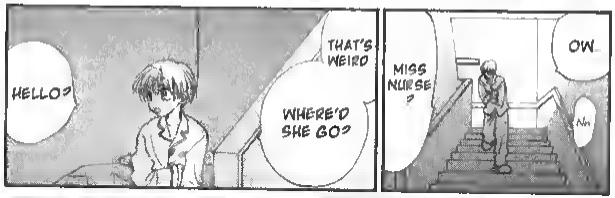
AWWW DON'T RUN AWAY!
I THINK IT'S COMING FROM THE STAIRS!
BUT--
IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE A FIGHT
THERE IT IS AGAIN

A THIEF!
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
HOW VERY EVIL
THAT LOOKS RATHER SUSPICIOUS

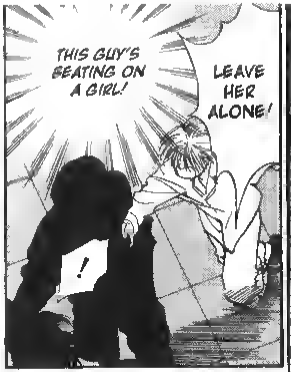

.. UH-OH ..
CLICK
CLICK


12
3


AND THAT'S NOT YOUR MEDI-CATION!
HOW DARE YOU!
!
YOU'RE THE PATIENT WHO CHECKED OUT THE OTHER DAY
YOU?
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
Hup Hup


HELLO?
THAT'S WEIRD
WHERE'D SHE GO?
MISS NURSE?
OW...
Nn

MISS NUR--


THIS GUY'S BEATING ON A GIRL!
LEAVE HER ALONE!
!

HEY!
WAIT!

OH MY GOD!

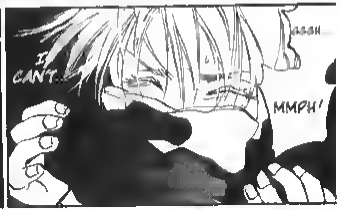
OOHIRA?!

!!

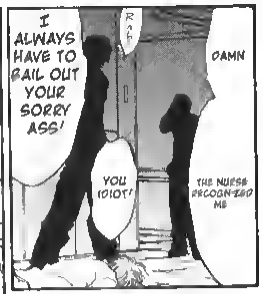
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS, DO YOU?
THAT WAS THE HOSPITAL THEY SAID KOTAROU'S GONE!
GONE?
IT'S LATE
WHO CALLED?
TATSUKI!
I'M AFRAID HE ISN'T HERE
YES.
YES THANK YOU.
THE STORY OF MY GODDAMN LIFE...

!!

ドサ
NNN..


I CAN'T..
ASSH
MMPH!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA
WHAT DO WE DO WITH 'EM?

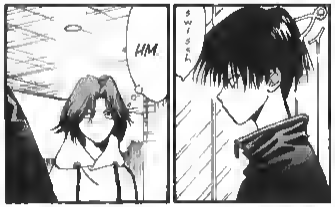

I ALWAYS HAVE TO BAIL OUT YOUR SORRY ASS!
YOU IDIOT!
DAMN
THE NURSE RECOGNIZED ME

SCREW THE BEDSIDE MANNER, DOC!
NO! I DON'T WANNA GO TO SURGERY!
I'M NEVER GONNA WALK AGAIN, AM I?!
I WANNA GO HOME!
THEY C-CAN'T SAY
THIS PLACE IS SWAMPED WITH DESPAIR... FLOODING INTO MY MIND..
BUT THEY WARNED US IT MIGHT OH, GOD!

I'M SURE HE'LL BE BACK--
HE DID HAVE A NUMBER OF FRIENDS WITH HIM
MAYBE THEY WENT OUT FOR SOME AIR
RATTLE

510
KOTAROU OOHIRA
MA'AM ?
MAYBE HE'S OUTSIDE SOME-WHERE
HE'S NOT ON THE ROOF

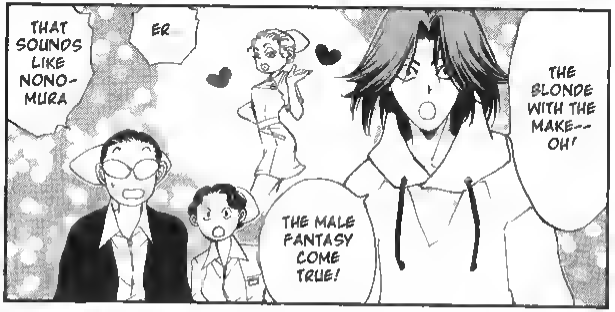
?
UH, THAT'S A PUSH DOOR YOU HAVE TO PUSH IT
.....

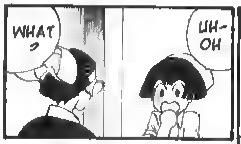

HM.
SWING

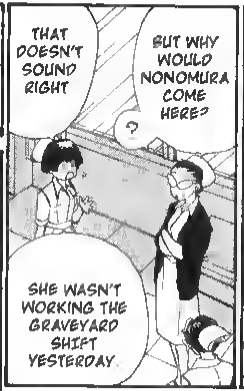
THERE YOU ARE, MAN!
DID KOTAROU REALLY DITCH THE HOSPITAL LAST NIGHT?
YOUR GRANDPA CALLED-- HE SOUNDED REALLY WORRIED!

MAYBE HE HATES DOCTORS.
HIS AURA'S TURNING PURPLE AGAIN
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WORTH BEING AFRAID OF
GOD, WHAT'S SO SOR-WORTHY THIS TIME?

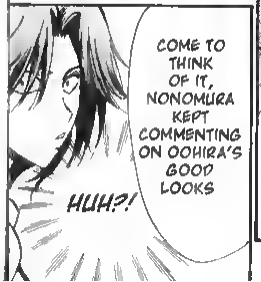
NO.
THE BLONDE WITH THE HEAVY MAKEUP AND SHE WASN'T "CHECKING" ANYTHING

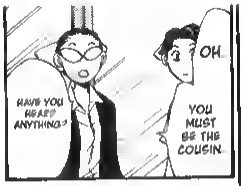

ER
THAT SOUNDS LIKE NONOMURA
THE BLONDE WITH THE MAKE--OH!
THE MALE FANTASY COME TRUE!


WHAT?
UH-OH


THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT
BUT WHY WOULD NONOMURA COME HERE?
SHE WASN'T WORKING THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT YESTERDAY.

TATSUKI? HEY!


COME TO THINK OF IT, NONOMURA KEPT COMMENTING ON OOHIRA'S GOOD LOOKS
HUH?!


OH.
YOU MUST BE THE COUSIN.
HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING?

WELL, YEAH--THEY DO CHECKS AND STUFF.
A NURSE WAS HERE LAST NIGHT.
HUH?

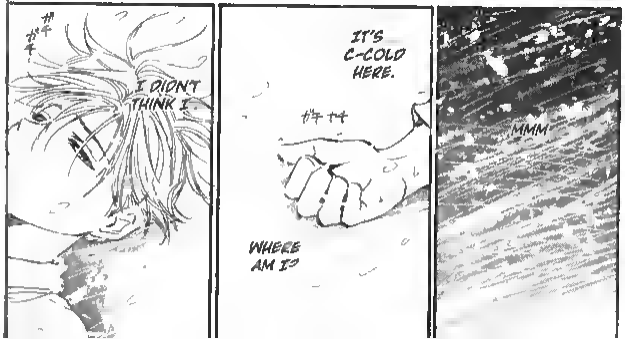
THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HOSPITAL POLICY

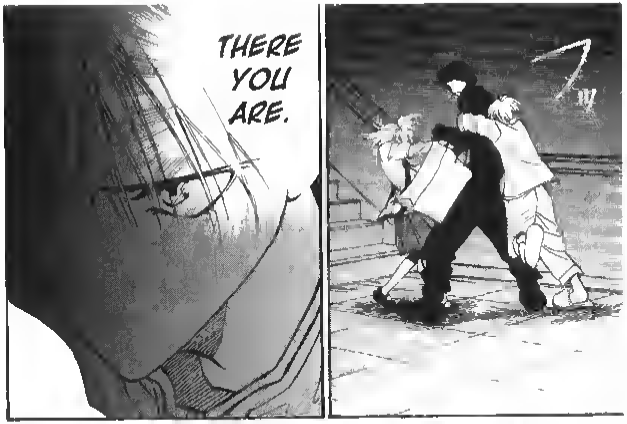
I REMEMBER YOU.
THAT GIRL AGAIN.
WHAT'S HE DOING?
A MAN
THOSE LOOK LIKE PILLS

'*#@ING HIM SENSELESS
AND SHE KINDA MENTIONED, UM, SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF...
NO WAY!
DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE
YIKES! M-MIO!
WOW. HOW THE HELL DOES THE KID DO IT?
WAIT A SECOND! ARE YOU TELLING ME SOME HOT NURSE STOLE KOTAROU?!
AND NOW THEY'RE OFF DOING ..!
MA'AM!

RIGHT?
I SAW IT IN A MOVIE ONCE
HEY-- GOOD CALL ON THE NARCS, BY THE WAY.
AND WHAT A HAUL!
WE'RE GONNA BE ROLLING IN IT
PIECE OF CAKE, MAN♪

ヒュウウウ


I DIDN'T THINK I
IT'S C-COLD HERE.
WHERE AM I?
MMM


THERE YOU ARE.

OUR SEDATIVE SUPPLY GOT CLEANED OUT!
GOOD GOD!
MA'AM, OVER HERE!

WHA?!
THE PHARMACY WAS ROBBED
TATSUKI? WHAT NOW?

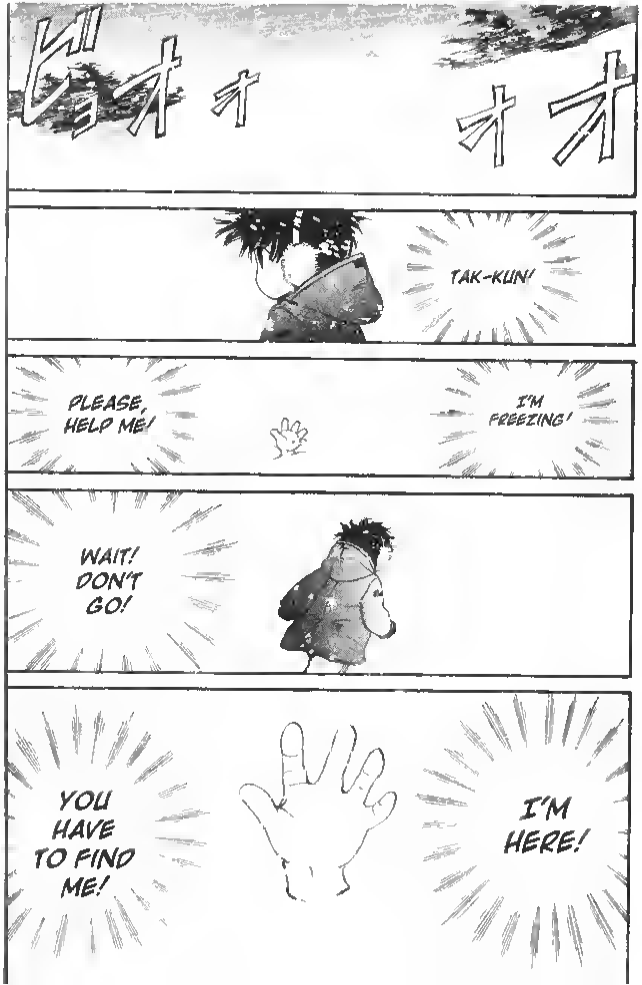
I DUNNO WHAT'S GOING ON!
YUUTO, WHAT SEDATIVES?
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH KOTAROU?! HEY!

NOT AGAIN!

THE POLICE OFFICER SAID HE WANTS TO TALK TO TATSUKI
YUUTO
YOU HEAR THAT?
THEY WANT YOU, MAN
DAMMIT
THE BASEMENT
WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?!
TUNK
MORGUE
TUNK

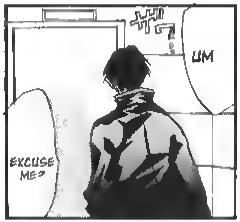
?!
HEY!
I CAN'T M-MOVE!
WHERE AM I?!
kathump
kathump
WHAT HAPPENED?
PLEASE
IT'S REALLY COLD IN HERE!
TUNK
KLUNK
SHIT!
SOMEONE LET US OUT!
squirm
IT SMELLS LIKE...
SOMEONE ELSE'S HERE.
I THINK THAT'S THE NURSE!

DAMMIT, NOT AGAIN!
ALL THAT FEAR AND HATRED...
IT'S TEARING ME APART.
UM, TATSUKI?
PAT
DON'T TELL ME--
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU LOOK LIKE CRAP
GODDAMMIT, KOTAROU!
MIO, WOULD YOU MIND STALLING THE COP FOR ANOTHER MINUTE?
S-SURE
I CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS.
!
THE MORGUE?
WHAT'S THAT?
TATSUKI
NO!
I'M SCARED!
BUT I WANT TO LIVE!
PLEASE, I WANT TO LIVE!
SOMEBODY, PLEASE, HELP ME!
STO--

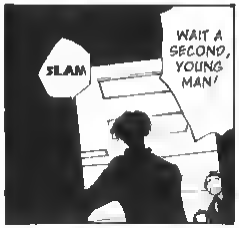

TAK-KUN!
PLEASE, HELP ME!
I'M FREEZING!
WAIT! DON'T GO!
YOU HAVE TO FIND ME!
I'M HERE!

ARE YOU FAMILY OF THE DECEASED?
...SHIT.
HEY
LET'S GO UPSTAIRS, OKAY?
YOU CAN SIT IN THE LOBBY.
COME ON
Ack!
HUH?
WE'RE ON OUR WAY OUT.
NO-- WE'RE NOT RELATED
COME ON, SATSUKI! TALK TO ME!
HIS AURA'S GONE DARK PURPLE AGAIN
THAT'S SOME DEEP FEAR, MAYBE WITH PAIN.

HEY!
KOTA!

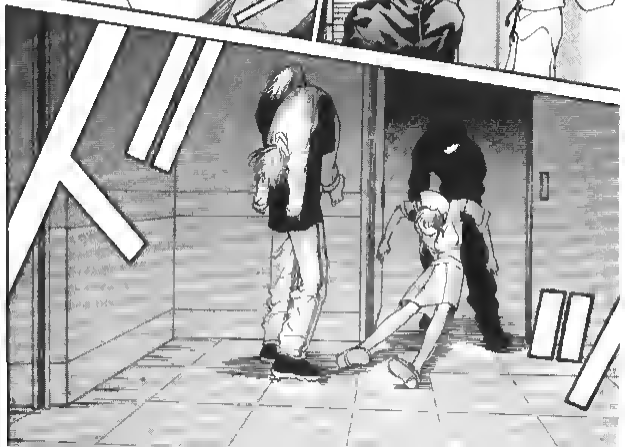

UM
EXCUSE ME?

TATSUKI, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
!

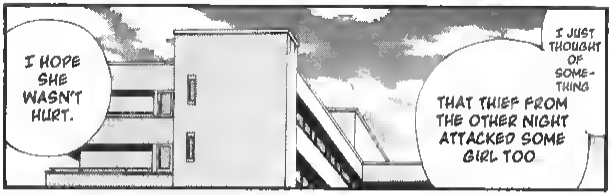

SLAM
WAIT A SECOND, YOUNG MAN!

TAK-KUN!

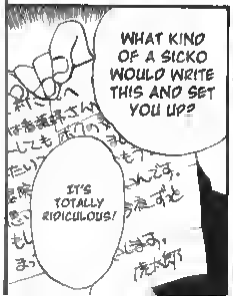
WHAT NOW?



TAK-KUN...


I HOPE SHE WASN'T HURT.
I JUST THOUGHT OF SOME-THING
THAT THIEF FROM THE OTHER NIGHT ATTACKED SOME GIRL TOO

Caught a cold
OF COURSE I'M MAD!
MIO ARE YOU STILL MAD?


WHAT KIND OF A SICKO WOULD WRITE THIS AND SET YOU UP?
IT'S TOTALLY RIDICULOUS!

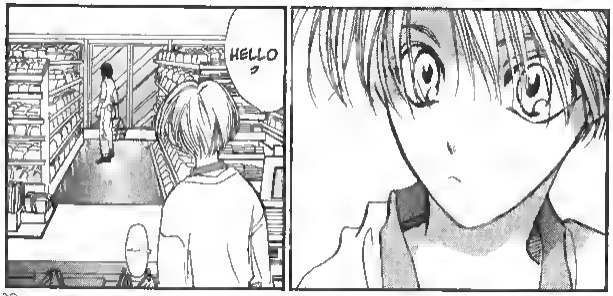
BUT NOT AT YOU, KOTAROU
I'M MAD THAT YOU GOT HURT
AND THAT THIS EXISTS!

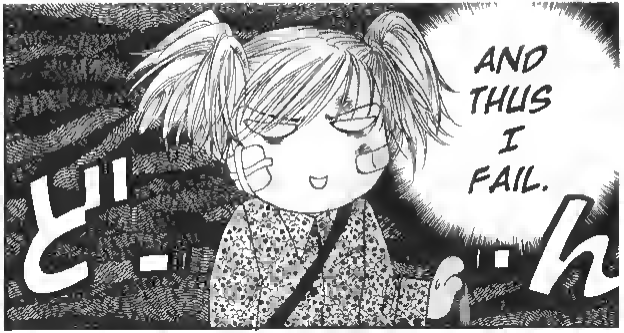
WHAT THE HELL?!

.....

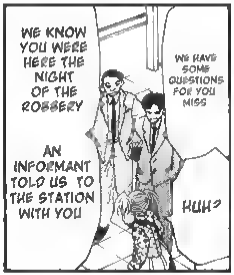
I GIVE UP
GOOD LORD

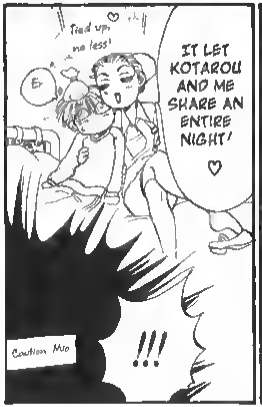
ACT 11
KOTAROU OOHIRA AT YOUR SERVICE
I'D LIKE TO BUY THIS, PLEASE
ONE MOMENT, PLEASE!
CURRENTLY WORKING THE GRIND
I'M AN INTENSELY COOL HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN WITH A GORGEOUS GIRLFRIEND AND A BUDDING BASKETBALL CAREER


HELLO ?

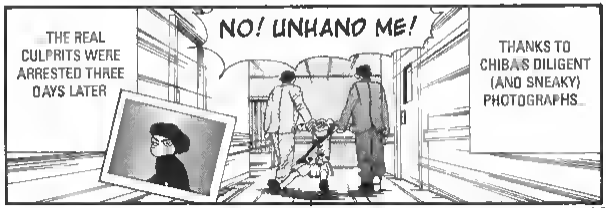

AND THUS I FAIL.

PAT
YES! WELL DONE, NURSE!

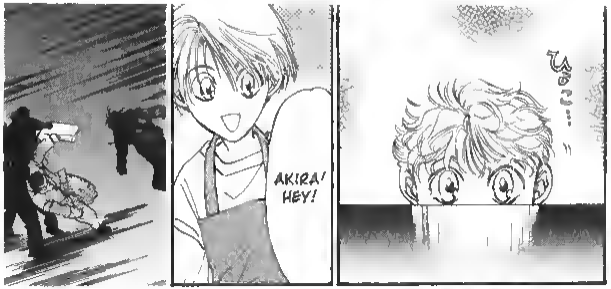

WE KNOW YOU WERE HERE THE NIGHT OF THE ROBBERY
AN INFORMANT TOLD US TO THE STATION WITH YOU
WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU MISS
HUH?


Tsad up, no less!
IT LET KOTAROU AND ME SHARE AN ENTIRE NIGHT!
Cautious Mio
!!!

OH, DON'T BE SUCH A SOURPUSS
HUH?
I'M GLAD I GOT THAT LETTER


THE REAL CULPRITS WERE ARRESTED THREE DAYS LATER
NO! UNHAND ME!
THANKS TO CHIBA'S DILIGENT (AND SNEAKY) PHOTOGRAPHS

* ACT 10 * END


AKIRA! HEY!
ひそ…

OO I EVER, BIG GUY BUT I'VE GOTTA STAY HERE UNTIL PRETTY LATE
WANNA PLAY?
HOW ABOUT TOMORROW?

キャ

ACT 11

CLICK
AND LOOK AT ME WHEN I'M YELLING AT YOU!
CLICK
CLICK
HM?
CLICK
THERE THEY GO AGAIN
Heh
OI!
CLICK
CLICK
AN ACCIDENT MAYBE
WHAT'S THAT?
THOSE LOOK LIKE COPS
AH!
?

TATSUKI!
YOU'RE SO RUDE!
Hm
PUSH
clang
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?
MUST YOU DRAG YOUR STUPID ANTISOCIAL BAGGAGE TO MY WORKPLACE?
OOHIRA
GET BACK HERE!
I DON'T WANT YOUR STINKIN' MONEY!

C'MON-- THAT COULD'VE BEEN ANY GOTH IN TOKYO!
HE WAS DRESSED IN BLACK AND HAD ON GLOVES!
HE'S LYING! IT WAS HIM, I'M SURE OF IT!
.....
THOSE GLOVES ARE UNUSUAL WHY ARE YOU WEARING THEM?
HEY
JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION, TATSUKI
?
LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THESE
SORRY-- HE'S SORTA A WEIRDO

THE ONE IN BLACK'S THE PUNK WHO MUGGED ME!
HUH?
THAT'S HIM! OFFICER, THAT'S THE KID!
HE ATTACKED ME AND TOOK MY BAG AND WALLET!
HE HAD TWO OF HIS ROTTEN FRIENDS WITH HIM
JUST A MINUTE, SON
MUGGED ?
WAIT A SEC
ER
WHA?
LOOK, I'M SORRY YOU'VE BEEN HURT
BUT YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY HE'S BEEN WITH ME IN THAT STORE UNTIL NOW
NO--THE MUGGERS WERE ALL MALE
I AM MALE!
AND THIS ONE?
AN OYAJI-GARI?!*
OOHRA

*"A CURRENT STREET PROBLEM. OLD FART HUNTING" GENERALLY INVOLVES YOUNG GANGSTERS ATTACKING MIDDLE AGED OR OLDER MEN ON THE STREET FOR MONEY AND/OR KICKS

WAIT IN HERE
WE JUST NEED TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS
I NEVER SHOULD'VE LET THAT BASTARD COME UP FOR AIR.
SO I STUCK THE BITCH WITH A SWITCHBLADE. SHE HAD IT COMING!
I JUST WANTED THE INSURANCE MONEY. CAN YA BLAME ME?
WHA...
YOU SHOULD'VE HEARD HIS NECK SNAP!

DAMN!
CLICK
CLICK
HELLO, JUVIE
STU--
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
CLICK
CLICK
TATSUKI!
YOU'RE COMING WITH US!
FOR GOD'S SAKE
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR HEAD, KID?
.....

THEY PUT HIM IN JAIL?!
WAIT
THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN PIN THAT MUGGING ON HIM. HE WAS WITH ME!
HOW COME?!
MM.
THEY'RE KEEPING HIM OVERNIGHT.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
"ACTED UP"?
GOD, TATSUKI...
HE ACTED UP IN THE INTERROGATION ROOM AND HIT ANOTHER OFFICER.
GRAMPA!
OH MY POOR HEART.

DON'T TOUCH ME WITH YOUR...
SHE WAS ASKING FOR IT, THE STUPID WHORE.
NO!
WE WERE JUST HAVIN' A LITTLE FUN.
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
HEY!
GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
I DON'T TAKE SHIT FROM PIGS!

DRAGGING ME DOWN...

TATSUKI!
I'LL TELL THEM TO BRING HIM.
YOU'RE HERE FOR TATSUKI OOHIRA?

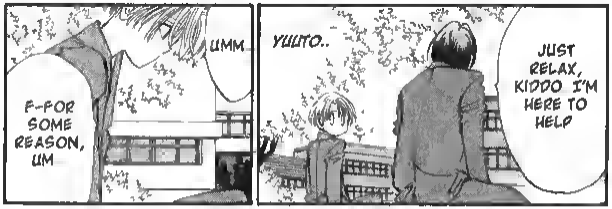
PLEASE, LEAVE ME ALONE!
HOLD STILL, BITCH
AN' DON'T YOU EVER RAT ME OUT AGAIN!
STOP IT!

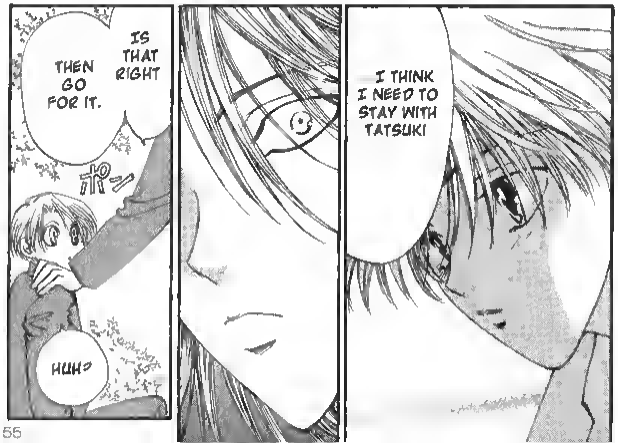
I ALREADY SAID I DIDN'T DO IT!
SCREW YOU!
THE HORROR AND THE MONSTERS
HONDA AND HIS PUSSIES FRAMED ME!
I KNOW WHERE YOU SLEEP, GIRLY!
...THEY'RE VIOLATING MY MIND.
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU FIND THE BODY.

ドキ
!!
スッ
ドキッ
TA...
ドギッ
S-SURE
MAYBE I'M JUST SEEING THINGS
H-HEY
I DON'T GET IT
HE LOOKED RELIEVED FOR A SECOND THERE
YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO SCHOOL, KOTAROU
WHAT WAS THAT?!

フラッ
I'M DIRTY
HE LOOKS AWFUL!
TATSUKI
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT?!

I'D LIKE TO THINK YOU CAN SPILL THINGS TO ME BY NOW
YOU CAN'T GO CRIME-FIGHTING IN A MOOD LIKE THAT
I-I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN SAY IT
GOD...


UMM
F-FOR SOME REASON, UM
YUUTO..
JUST RELAX, KIDDO I'M HERE TO HELP


IS THAT RIGHT
THEN GO FOR IT.
HUH?
I THINK I NEED TO STAY WITH TATSUKI

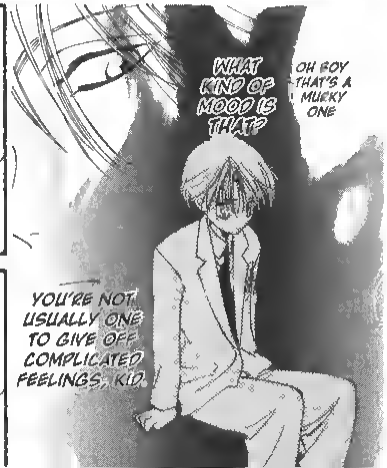
YOU DO KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, DON'T YOU?
WOW
YEAH. AND I THINK HE TOOK IT PRETTY HARD
WE NEED TO FIND THAT ASSHOLE MUGGER AND PROVE TATSUKI'S INNOCENCE
HE WAS PALE AND SHAKING WHEN THEY LET HIM OUT

MAN, I LEAVE YOU GUYS ALONE FOR A DAY
THEY REALLY LOCKED HIM UP?

MM

SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU
TALK TO ME, KOTAROU

.....


WHAT KIND OF MOOD IS THAT?
OH BOY THAT'S A MUCKY ONE
YOU'RE NOT USUALLY ONE TO GIVE OFF COMPLICATED FEELINGS, KID.

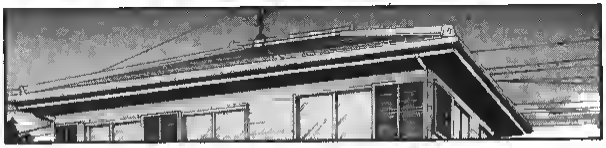
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYTHING ANYMORE
NOT ANYONE!
NOT ANYTHING

YOU LOOK A LITTLE SICK
ARE YOU AWAKE?
creek
knock
TATSUKI? I'M COMING IN

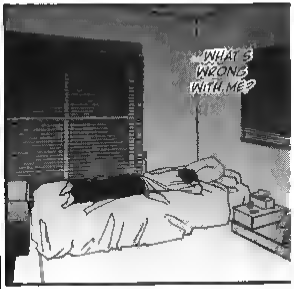
I'M GOING THROUGH HELL.
. AND YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE
?
YOU
YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ME

THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING
WELL, WELL

YOU THINK SO?
I THINK I CAN HANDLE A SINGLE JUVENILE DELINQUENT ON MY OWN
IF YOU WANNA PROVIDE TATSUKI WITH SOME TLC, I'M THE LAST PERSON TO STOP YOU.



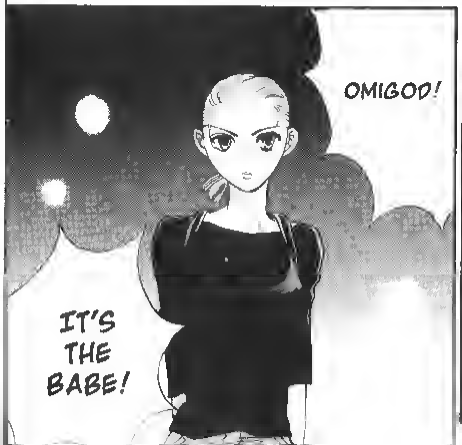
SHIT! SHIT SHIT SHIT!
AS IF HE COULD HELP ME!
HE GAVE ME THIS CURSE IN THE FIRST PLACE

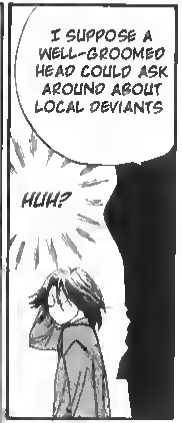

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD. CLEANSE ME SOMEHOW
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TOUCH HIM

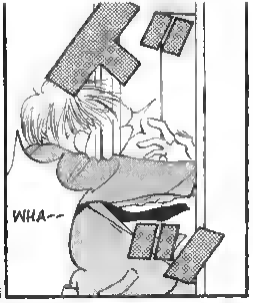
AND I'M LOOKING FOR THREE HIGH SCHOOL PUNKERS
WITH NO WITNESSES AWESOME!
SO THE VICTIM WAS A 44-YEAR-OLD BUSINESS-MAN, HM?
AH, NEW SCENE-OF-THE-CRIME SMELL

USE THAT PRETTY, WELL-GROOMED HEAD OF YOURS
THINK, YUUTO.


OMIGOD!
IT'S THE BABE!


I SUPPOSE A WELL-GROOMED HEAD COULD ASK AROUND ABOUT LOCAL DEVIANTS
HUH?

THANKS A LOT, JERKFACE! I CAME HOME FOR...
HEY!


WHA--

DAMMIT, TATSUKI...
WHY DO YOU KEEP SHUTTING ME OUT?
I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW.
EVER.

YESTERDAY, HUH
AN OYAJI-GARI?
DOES THAT HAPPEN A LOT HERE?
I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'
BEATS ME
IT MIGHT'VE JUST BEEN LOCAL PUNKS
HUH?
I HEARD THEY CAUGHT THE GUY.
NO IDEA, MAN
THEY'RE PRETTY NASTY
MAYBE IT WAS ONE OF THOSE MOTOR-CYCLE GANGS
OR, LIKE MOST THINGS IN LIFE THESE DAYS...
OOH, MAYBE THAT'S FOR ME!
... IT'S PROBABLY FOR TATSUKI.
KAREN. THAT'S A PRETTY NAME.

GOD OF FLIRTING, THOU HAST NOT FORSAKEN ME!
I MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF HIDDEN KARMA CACHE!
YELLOW AND PALE ORANGE...
KAREN.
THAT MEANS SHE'S HAVING FUN
BUT SHE'S A LITTLE NERVOUS!
AND COULD THAT BE CURIOSITY?
A WANNABE JOURNALIST
SHE'S GRANDSTANDING THE CAMERA AGAIN
I GUESS ON-SCENE PHOTOGRAPHY IS HOW SHE GETS HER KICKS
UNLESS WE'RE BOTH HERE TO INVESTIGATE THAT MUGGING MESS
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
MAYBE
No more forgetting for me!
THAT'S RIGHT-- HER NAME AND AURA!
SOOO DOES MY NEW OBTECTIVE PARTNER HAVE A NAME?
I'M YUUTO YUUTO URUSHIYAMA

HUH?
LET GO!

BAH
WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE FAST
WHAT NOW, MISS KAREN?

NUH-UH!

HANDS OFF THE LADY, SCUMBAGS!

!!

HAAH!
OVER HERE
!
EXCUSE ME!
I'M LOOKING FOR YUUTO URUSHIYAMA O!
YOU AGAIN
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE

WHA...
GO TO HELL, ASSHOLE
KEEP OUTTA SHIT THAT AIN'T YOURS.
THIS GUY JUST GOT STABBED!
HEY!
SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!
OH MY GOD!
ARE YOU OKAY O!

I-I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT TATSUKI AGAIN
I HAD NO IDEA HE'D END UP
THIS WASN'T HIS PROBLEM TO BEGIN WITH!
TH-THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.
YUUTO WENT OUT ALONE BECAUSE I ASKED HIM TO
NEAR THE ANIMAL HOSPITAL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MUNICIPAL APARTMENT COMPLEX
YOU
WHERE'D HE GET STABBED?
YUUTO!
MISS, PLEASE-- YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO RUN!
WAIT UP!
I WON'T LET THOSE ASSHOLES GET AWAY WITH THIS!
TO HELL WITH RE-COOPERATION!
THIS IS GONNA END UP A PHOTOGRAPHER'S FACADISE
YUUTO...
I JUST GAVE BLOOD
YOUR FRIEND NEEDED A TRANS-FUSION
HE WAS ATTACKED AFTER ASKING ABOUT THE OYAJI-GARI
AND AFTER-WARDS .
THEY LOOKED LIKE HIGH SCHOOL KIDS
HUH?!
IT WAS PROBABLY THE SAME MUGGERS
THEY TOLD HIM TO STAY OUT OF THEIR BUSINESS.

AKIRA!
HUH?
I GOTTA DO THIS
?
THEY'RE AT WAKABA APART-MENTS
IT'S ALMOST 11 O'CLOCK, BUDDY.
YOU SHOULD BE IN BED!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
THE GUYS WHO HURT YOUR FRIEND
THEY'RE AT WAKABA APART-MENTS
WHAT ?!
MMPH!
Urgh
THAT'S YUUTO'S BLOOD-STAIN
THINK OF JUSTICE FOR YUUTO JUSTICE FOR YUUTO!
GOD-DAMMIT!
KEEP IT TOGETHER, KOTAROU!
I SEE ONE LITTLE BLOOD-STAIN AND I ALMOST PUKE
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...THAT GIRL SAID THESE ARE PROBABLY THE SAME GUYS FROM THE OYAJI-GARI.
WHICH MEANS CATCHING THESE BASTARDS COULD ALSO CLEAR TATSUKI.
wipe

ACT 12

THERE

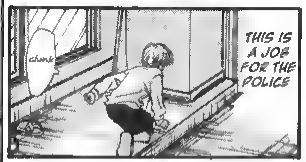
YUP
HOLD ON A SEC
AND... WH-WHERE IS WAKABA?
YOU SAW YUUTO GET STABBED?!

SEE?
NO WAY.
NO WAY IS IT THAT EASY!
©ACT 11 : END

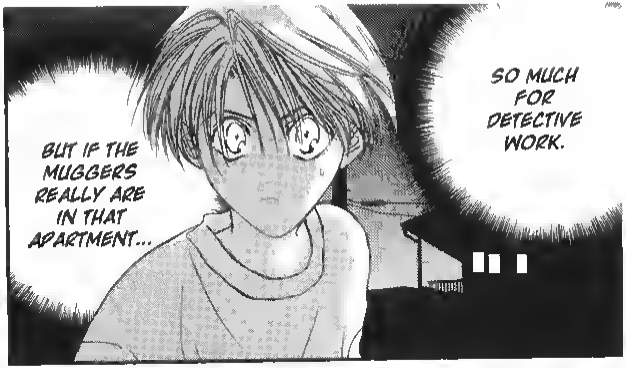
THAT'S GOTTA BE THEM!
HA HA!
WHO WAS THAT DORK ASKING AROUND ABOUT US TODAY?
MAYBE HE WAS THE GEEZER'S SWISHY SON

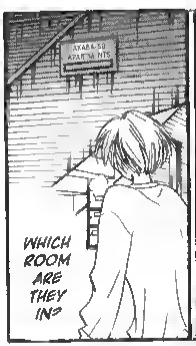
CRAP--!
WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

RRGH!
YOU CAN'T TAKE ON THREE OF THEM BY YOURSELF
CALM DOWN, KOTAROU

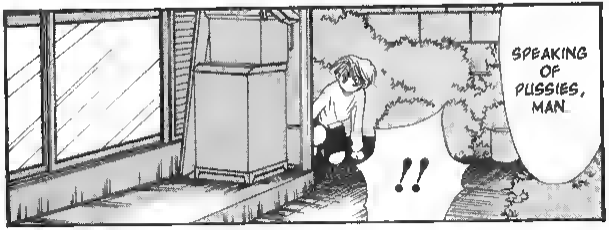

clunk
THIS IS A JOB FOR THE POLICE

UH-OH


SO MUCH FOR DETECTIVE WORK.
BUT IF THE MUGGERS REALLY ARE IN THAT APARTMENT...


KYARA-SO APARTMENTS
WHICH ROOM ARE THEY IN?

AKIRA, I'M GONNA GO CHECK IT OUT.
YOU JUST GO HOME NOW, OKAY?
OKAY


SPEAKING OF PUSSIES, MAN.
!!

.....
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOUR DAD
YOU'VE HURT TOO MANY PEOPLE TO DODGE THE SYSTEM NOW.
YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT'LL SAVE YOU?

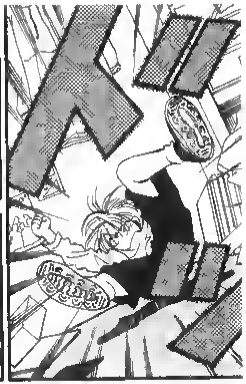
WAIT.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHA?
LEAVE THIS ONE TO ME
YOU GUYS TAKE A WALK.

HOLD UP
CAN IT, YOU LITTLE TURD!
TIME TO GET YOUR ASS KICKED

I-uh...
R'IGHT?
WAY TO RUIN A PARTY

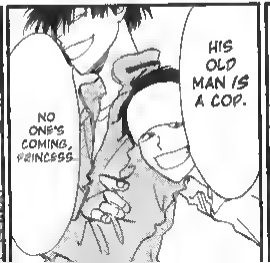
YOU HERE TO END UP LIKE YOUR FRIEND?
ANOTHER FEMMY SLINKER, HUH? HOW'D YOU FIND THIS PLACE?



HA?
SCREW YOU
ASS-HOLE!

AND YOU BASTARDS FRAMED MY COUSIN FOR THAT MUGGING.
I SAID SCREW YOU!
WHAT THE HELL ELSE DO YOU SHITHEADS DO FOR "FUN"?!
THEY'RE GONNA FIND YOU. A FRIEND OF MINE ALMOST DIED!

.....

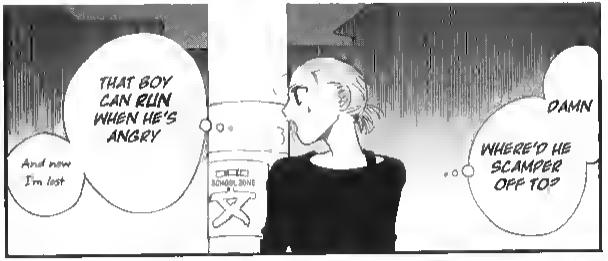

NO ONE'S COMING, PRINCESS.
HIS OLD MAN IS A COP.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
HA HA!
THEY'LL FIND US RIGHT.
HA HA HA!

THE OTHER NIGHT...
sigh
sigh
I BEAT UP AN OLD MAN FOR MONEY...
.....
I'LL HELP YOU HERE!
fssh
I WAS--KINDA THINKING ABOUT A LETTER...
BUT I SUCK AT THOSE THINGS

THANK GOD.
I TOSSED HIS BAG AND WALLET INTO A BUSH AT THE KIDDIE PLAYGROUND.
I THINK THIS AWFUL WEEK MIGHT ACTUALLY END OKAY.
IT WAS STUPID I'M SORRY
THEN SOME GUY STARTED ASKING AROUND ABOUT ME, SO I PANICKED AND STABBED HIM

Y-YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
ばっ
SUICIDE ISN'T THE ANSWER!
I HOPE KILLING MYSELF CAN MAKE UP FOR IT.
WHAT?!


THAT BOY CAN RUN WHEN HE'S ANGRY
And now I'm lost
SCHOOL ZONE
DAMN
WHERE'D HE SCAMPER OFF TO?

I HEARD CONFESSING CAN GET YOU A BREAK.
BUT THAT'S PROBABLY SHIT
HE WANTS TO TURN HIMSELF IN!

HEY...

I-I DUNNO
HUH?
HE DOESN'T MEAN
DO YOU KNOW IF COPS CAN GET FIRED FOR HAVING A FAMILY MEMBER IN JAIL?

NOT FOR TRYING TO COME CLEAN!
HE'S THE LAST PERSON I WANNA TALK TO, DUMBASS!
HE'LL KILL ME
YES! CIVIL OBEDIENCE, YES!
A CONFESSION CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE--JUST TALK TO YOUR FATHER!

ACT 12
rattle
SHIT
I GUESS I'M ALMOST OUT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH, CRAP!
THAT LETTER I JUST WROTE---
COOL
NOW THE COPS ARE GONNA GET A CONFESSION FROM YOU AND EVERYTHING
N-NO! GET AWAY FROM ME!
DRUGS?!
OPEN UP, KID
NO!
OPEN YOUR GODDAMN MOUTH!

SUICIDE? AS IF, PIXIE.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S GONNA DIE!
HUH?!

I'M AFRAID YOUR FRIEND URUSHIYAMA WAS STABBED TODAY.
KOTAROU WENT TO VISIT HIM AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL
STABBED?
WHERE'S KOTAROU, GRAMPA?
HE DIDN'T WANT TO UPSET YOU, SO HE WENT OUT BY HIMSELF
.....
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED
THAT WASN'T THE HOSPITAL
NO
WHERE WAS URUSHIYAMA STABBED?
ON THIRD STREET, NEAR THE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
HUH?
OH...
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? I NEED TO TALK TO YOU
SCREE
GO BACK IN THE HOUSE AND I'LL JOIN YOU IN A MINUTE

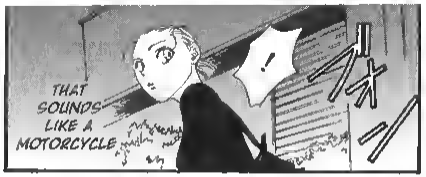
!!
WHAT?
I THOUGHT KOTAROU WAS HOME
WHAT WAS THAT?
!!

IT...IT DISAPPEARED!

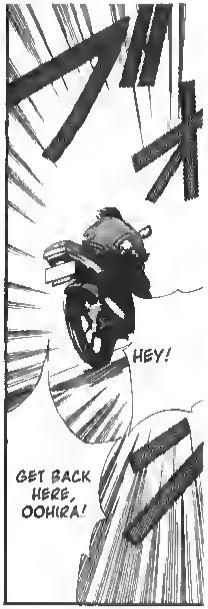
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

BUT WHY WOULD.

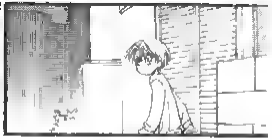
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BEYOND THIS POINT
SHIT


THAT SOUNDS LIKE A MOTORCYCLE
!

IT'S HIM!
I KNEW HE'D COME


HEY!
GET BACK HERE, OOHIRA!

WHAT?



HE WAS HERE
THERE

ROOM 101
WAKABA
HEY!
THAT WAS CRYPTIC AS HELL.
CHICK
IT'S OPEN.
IT'S AWFUL LATE.
WHO'S THE KID?
ドン
THERE.

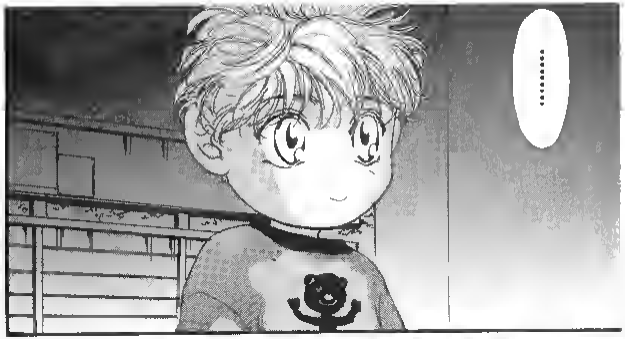
HE'S IN WAKABA APARTMENTS, Y'KNOW
OH, HIM.
...
!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME!
ROOM 101 OF WAKABA APARTMENTS

SOMETHING'S ERASING THE PAST!
GLICK
IS HE OKAY?
GLICK
GLICK
WHOA

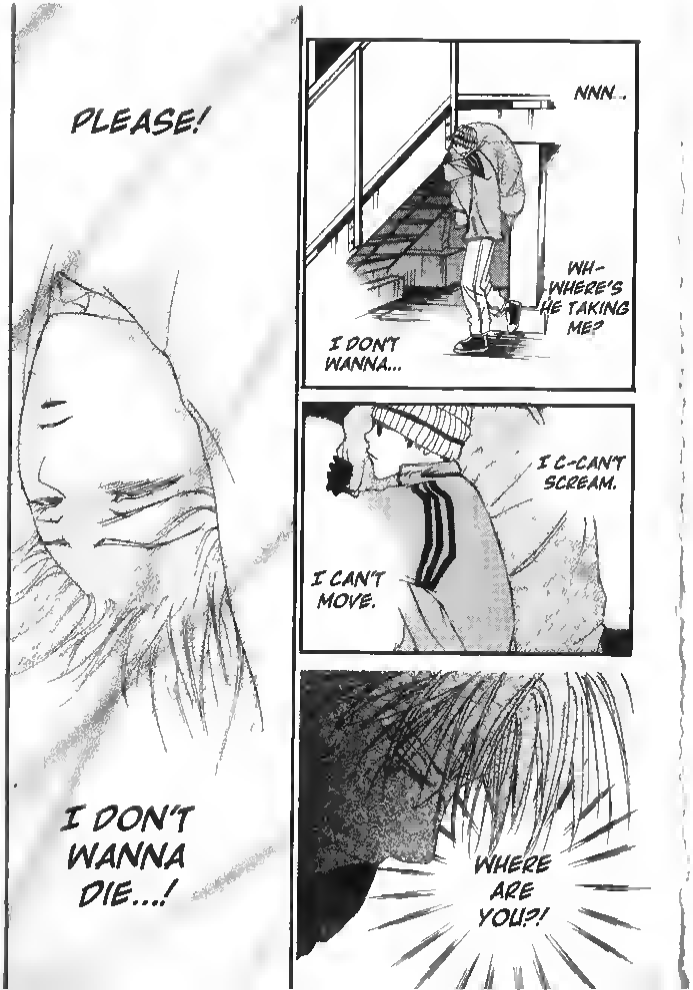
WHAT? SHIT!
NOT AGAIN!

DAMMIT...
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
BUT THEN WHERE'D HE GO?
HE CAME HERE.
I'M SURE OF IT.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S GONE AND YOU'RE BLIND.
D-DON'T PANIC.


.....

BUT HE'D FREAK AND BREAK MY CAMERA IF HE SAW ME.
MAYBE HE'S ANEMIC OR EPILEPTIC OR SOMETHING
HE COULD NEED HELP
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
PASTS DON'T JUST DISAPPEAR.
SOMETHING'S WRONG


PLEASE!
I DON'T WANNA DIE...!
NNN..
WH-WHERE'S HE TAKING ME?
I DON'T WANNA...
I C-CAN'T SCREAM.
I CAN'T MOVE.
WHERE ARE YOU?!

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE FREEZING UP AND...
SHIT-- WHERE IS HE?!
KOTAROU!
THIS KID'S LIGHT
LITTLE RUNT. LESS WORK FOR ME!

KOTA?
THE PAST...

HELP ME!

OH GOD!
Nn!
N no!
...
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR YOU TO TAKE THE PLUNGE
HERE'S YOUR SUICIDE NOTE.
SOMEBODY HELP ME!
LOOK DOWN, GIRLY.
YOU'LL NEVER GET A VIEW THIS GOOD AGAIN.
...AND THERE GO YOUR SHOES
PLEASE!
SEE YA.
TATSUKI!

IT'S COMING BACK!
HOW COME?
TRY AND LOSE ME NOW.
!
OOOKAY, I GUESS HE'S FINE

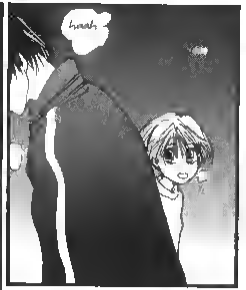
TATSUKI!
hmph

NNGH!
!

TH-THAT GUY--
UM...

BUT WHEN DID HE...
!

TH-THANK YOU


hmph

ド
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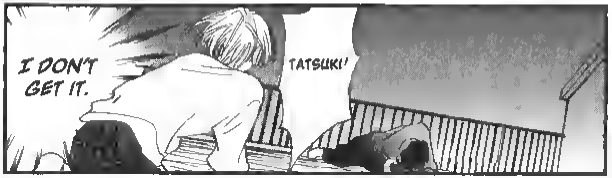
ガ
!

HUH?!

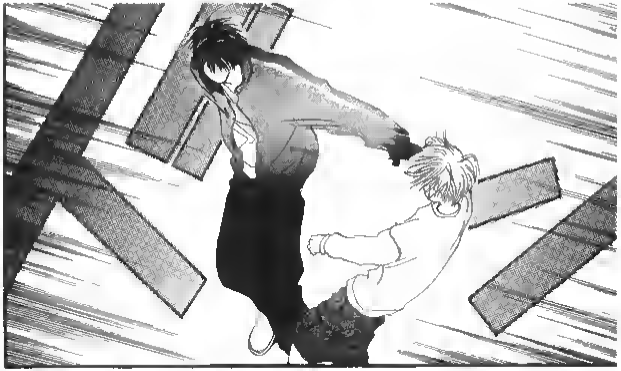
SOMEBODY GRABBED ME

I...
I'M NOT DEAD!

I NEVER WANT TO GET INVOLVED
...?
BUT I ALWAYS DO.


I DON'T GET IT.
TATSUKI!

WHY WON'T YOU LET ME HELP YOU?
HE KEEPS PUSHING ME AWAY



ALWAYS
IT ALWAYS ENDS THIS WAY.

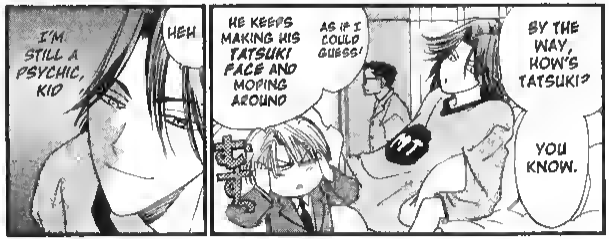
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
I WAS JUST

THERE'S SOMETHING ABNORMAL ABOUT THOSE TWO...
THE DARK-HAIRED ONE IN PARTICULAR...
BUT WHAT, I WONDER?
MM.
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT
WHAT SECRETS ARE YOU HIDING?
THAT NIGHT...
WE HELPED THE POLICE ARREST THOSE THREE OYAJI GARI ASSHOLES
TATSUKI WAS CLEARED AND YUUTO WAS PRONOUNCED STABLE
YOU REALLY SCARED ME FOR A WHILE THERE, YUUTO

THEN WHY...?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE I AM
IF I NEED YOU, YOU ALWAYS FIND ME.
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

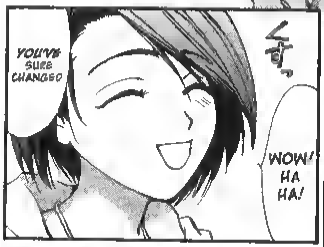
ACT 13

KAREN GAVE ME BLOOD, AND IT'S ALL WARM AND TINGLY!
♡
AAAAAW, I CAN'T HELP IT
I had a hell of a time with this!
SO STOP LOLLING AROUND LIKE YOU'RE ON SOME DAMN VACATION!

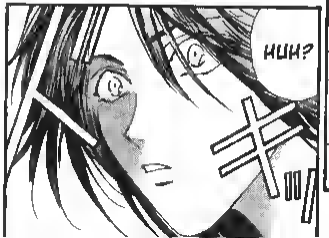

I'M STILL A PSYCHIC, KID
HEH
HE KEEPS MAKING HIS TATSUKI FACE AND MOPING AROUND
AS IF I COULD GUESS!
BY THE WAY, HOW'S TATSUKI?
YOU KNOW.

AND YOU'RE TURNING YELLOW-GREEN
IF YOU TWO ARE OKAY...
..THEN I GUESS SO AM I
ACT 12 END

OH MY GOD! IT IS YOU!
YUUTO URUSHI-YAMA!
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?


YOU'VE SURE CHANGED
WOW! HA HA!

AND HOW COULD I FORGET SUCH PERFECTION?
LONG TIME NO SEE, MY DEAR.
AH, BE STILL MY HEART! CUTE AND FORWARD!
WHO IS THIS ?!
BA-!


HUH?

DON'T TOUCH ME, MANWHORE!
I'M SURE YOU'RE SWIMMING WITH DISEASE
WHY'RE YOU ALWAYS SO PISSY?
KOTAROOOOOU!

I HOPE YOU GET A STROKE
BUT... SOFT SKIN... AND...
MAYBE IF YOU DION'T STOP TO TALK TO EVERYTHING WITH SOFT SKIN AND BOOBS, WE COULD ACTUALLY GO PLACES TOGETHER!
EGAD! HOW CRUEL!

UM, EXCUSE ME? YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE...

ACT 13

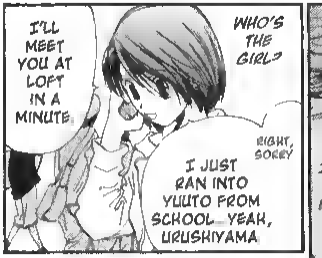
WOW, YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S CUTE. I WON'T INTERRUPT.
WAVE
GAH!
?
JUST FOR A VISIT WITH YURI AND THE GIRLS
SO YOU'RE BACK IN TOKYO?
SIGH
HOW ARE YOU THESE DAYS?
I CAME UP THIS MORNING ON THE BULLET TRAIN

CLARIFY! MY MASCULINITY'S AT STAKE HERE!
YOU ASS!
WAIT! I'M NOT--

I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER SEE HER AGAIN.
MAN...
YUUTO!
GO STOP HER! ARGH!

SO YOU DO REMEMBER!
LIME GREEN...
PIECE OF ADVICE, GUY--GET WORKING ON THOSE PICKUP LINES
KYO...
KYOKO?

I JUST DIDN'T, UM. GOD, IT'S REALLY YOU.
HUH?
OH UH, RIGHT. SORRY ABOUT THAT.


I'LL MEET YOU AT LOFT IN A MINUTE.
WHO'S THE GIRL?
RIGHT, SORRY
I JUST RAN INTO YUUTO FROM SCHOOL. YEAH, URUSHIYAMA

WHAT'S UP WITH YUUTO?
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D ALMOST THINK HE WAS SINCERE

I'M A LITTLE SCARED OF THOSE DARK COLORS
IT'S EASIER TO JUST SAY YES AND STARE AT THE FLOOR
THEY'RE UGLY AND HARD TO LOOK AT

DID THEY MAKE YOU DO THAT AGAIN?

YOU CAN BE NICE WITHOUT BEING A PUSHOVER
JUST LEARN HOW TO SAY NO
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?

YOU CAN'T LET THEM PUSH YOU AROUND, YUUTO
THAT'S KYOKO MOMOI

SHE DIDN'T
COME HERE JUST TO TELL ME THAT, DID SHE?

THREE YEARS EARLIER
HEY, YUUTO!

THANKS MAN!
SURE

MAKES ME SICK.
S-SURE

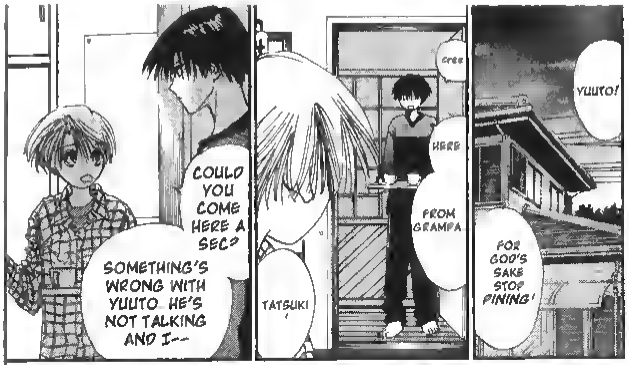
SEE?
I TOLD YOU HE'D DO IT
HE NEVER SAYS NO!
OR LOOKS UP, THE WEIRDO

COULD YOU DO MY SHARE OF CLEAN-UP TODAY?
I CAN SEE IT AGAIN.
BE YOUR BEST FRIEND!
THERE'S ALL THAT GRAY FLOATING AROUND HIM
THAT THICK, DIRTY GRAY

HEY!
WOOSH
WAIT A SECOND!
GIVE THAT BACK!
STOP! NOW!
THAT'S MY BAG YOU GRABBED!
?!

HUH?!
NO WAY!
BUT WHY?
SHE'S NOT. SHE DOESN'T HAVE A COLOR!
I REMEMBER THAT DAY
IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF MY TRANS FORMATION

ACT 13
YOU DON'T PAY YOUR FRIENDS!
NO! IT'S JUST, LIKE
MY WAY OF THANKING THEM
GOOD LORD.
A FRIEND TAX?
TELL ME YOU'RE JOKING
A FRIEND TAX.
THEY'RE OLDER THAN ME, AND THEY TEACH ME A LOT.
SO, YOU KNOW, THIS IS MY WAY OF PAYING THEM BACK.
SHE HASN'T EVEN GLANCED AT ME SINCE WE STARTED TALKING.
SHE'S NOT LOOKING ME IN THE EYE.
MY FRIENDS [illegible] REALLY NICE.
WE'RE ALWAYS HANGING OUT AND STUFF.
OH GOD, I'M SO SORRY!
I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY!
hmm
SNIFF
I
I NEED THE MONEY.
YOU DO?
FOR WHAT?
.....
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
DIDN'T MEAN TO WHAT? ROB ME?

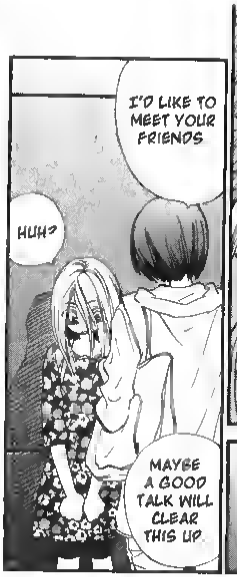

COULD YOU COME HERE A SEC?
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YUUTO. HE'S NOT TALKING AND I--
TATSUKI!
cree
HERE
FROM GRAMPA
YUUTO!
FOR GOD'S SAKE STOP PINING!

NOBODY RESPECTS ME.
Feh.

HEY!
BYE

.....
TO
YUUTO!

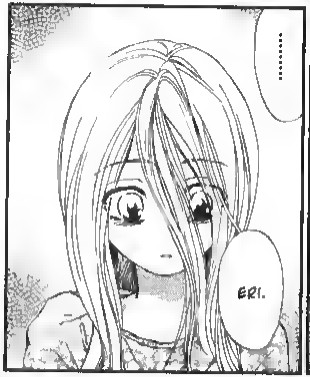
BUT I'M REALLY STARTING TO WORRY ABOUT YUUTO.
DO THEY HAVE SOME KINDA ANGSTY PAST OR SOMETHING?
RUNNING INTO THAT GIRL PRACTICALLY SHUT DOWN HIS SYSTEM.


I'D LIKE TO MEET YOUR FRIENDS.
HUH?
MAYBE A GOOD TALK WILL CLEAR THIS UP.

!

THE POOR THING LOOKS SCARED.
THEN WHY ARE YOU CRYING, SWEETHEART?

HERE


.....
ERI.

I'M KYOKO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

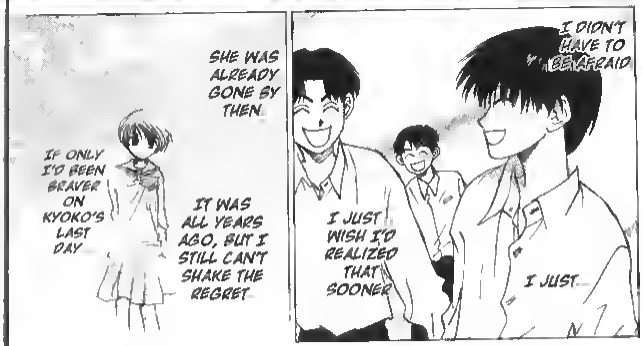
I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT LEARNING HOW TO SAY NO
I DON'T GET IT
LISTEN, YUUTO
IT DOESN'T MAKE YOU ANY LESS NICE, OKAY?
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT.
SHE'S HALOED BY THAT WHITE
EVERY TIME I SEE HER
I DON'T DESERVE THIS KINDNESS
MAN
DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?
IF YOU RESPECT YOURSELF, THEY'LL COME TO RESPECT YOU
RESPECT IS AS IMPORTANT AS KINDNESS
HUH?
HEY, YUUTO
WHY?
GOOD MORNING
WHOA.
THE FLOATY STUFF IS TURNING WHITEISH?
WHAT'S THAT?
GOOD MORNING, YUUTO!
HERE SHE COMES
YOUR COWLICK'S UP AGAIN
YOU'RE STARING AT THE FLOOR AGAIN.
YIKES!
I CAN'T EAT THAT!
EYES UP FOR MORE FOOD!
キーン コーン
1ST YEAR CLASS 2
HOW COME SHE'S NOT DIRTY LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?
BUT WHY HER AND NOT EVERYBODY ELSE?
UM, SEE YOU LATER!

GOOD MORNING!
LIME GREEN?!
P-PRETTY!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A COLOR LIKE THAT
IT'S NOT MURKY AT ALL
KYOKO'S DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER KIDS
IF I STAY WITH HER...
...MAYBE I REALLY CAN CHANGE
HI, HIDAKA
YOU WANTED TO TALK?
WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
!!
YEAH
UM...
AND THAT'S HIDAKA FROM THE SOCCER TEAM
THAT SOUNDS LIKE KYOKO
HE'S THE MOST POPULAR BOY IN SCHOOL!
DOES THAT MEAN SHE'S GONNA...
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
KYOKO TURNED DOWN HIDAKA
NO WAY!
I HEARD SHE LIKES SOMEONE ELSE
FOR REAL?
BUT HIDAKA'S THE HOTTEST BOY IN OUR GRADE!
THERE YOU ARE
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE ALL PALE
SHE LIKES SOMEONE ELSE...

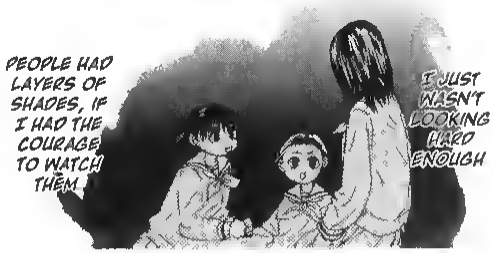
LOOK, TODAY'S MY LAST DAY HERE
I'M UPSET I HAVE TO TRANSFER AT ALL
JUST ONCE COULD YOU LOOK ME IN THE EYE?
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
YUUTO
I KNOW YOU'RE AVOIDING ME
I AVOIDED HER AFTER THAT
TWO MONTHS LATER, SHE TRANSFERRED OUT
THE MORE MISERABLE I BECAME
THE NICER SHE GOT.
IT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW HER.
YUUTO!

I CAN'T STOP SHAKING.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
UH, YUUTO?
MEN'S ROOM
MAYBE I'M IN LOVE WITH HER.
MAYBE.
SH-SHE JUST FEELS SORRY FOR ME!
I CAN'T EVEN LEARN HOW TO RESPECT MYSELF!
SHE DOESN'T RESPECT ME
SHE'D NEVER GO OUT WITH A LOSER LIKE ME.
HECK!
GOD, WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
NNGH!

SHE CHANGED ME
SHE HELPED ME CHANGE ME
I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT.


SHE WAS ALREADY GONE BY THEN.
IF ONLY I'D BEEN BRAVER ON KYOKO'S LAST DAY...
IT WAS ALL YEARS AGO, BUT I STILL CAN'T SHAKE THE REGRET.
I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID
I JUST WISH I'D REALIZED THAT SOONER
I JUST...

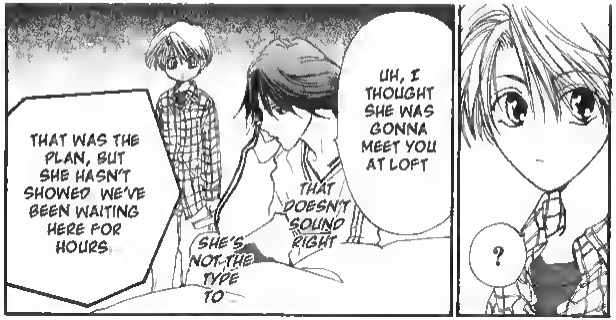
I BEGAN TO UNDER-STAND
FROM THEN ON...
KYOKO CALLED ME LAST NIGHT!
COOL!
GUESS WHAT?


PEOPLE HAD LAYERS OF SHADES, IF I HAD THE COURAGE TO WATCH THEM.
I JUST WASN'T LOOKING HARD ENOUGH

SO I DID STOP STARING AT THE GROUND.

I WANTED TO LOOK AT PEOPLE!
THE MORE I GOT TO KNOW THEM...
THE MORE COLORS I COULD SEE!

IT WASN'T THAT EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS CRUEL...
...BUT EVEN A RAINBOW JUST LOOKS LIKE A BLUR FROM THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE


UH, I THOUGHT SHE WAS GONNA MEET YOU AT LOFT
?
THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT
THAT WAS THE PLAN, BUT SHE HASN'T SHOWED WE'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR HOURS
SHE'S NOT THE TYPE TO

SHE'S NOT ANSWERING HER CELL PHONE
BELIEVE ME, WE TRIED CALLING
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE SHE MIGHT BE?

IF I HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR CELL PHONE RING ANOTHER SECOND, I'M JAMMING IT DOWN YOUR THROAT!
BEING A SPACE CASE, MORON!
BEEP BEEP
K-KOTAROU?
OW!
BEEP BEEP
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
ANSWER IT ALREADY!
BEEP BEEP

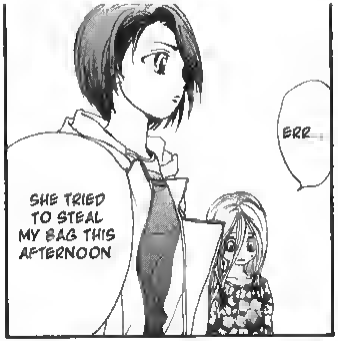
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE KYOKO TODAY, DID YOU?
?!

Your adorable face hides a vicious soul
Such violence

URUSHIYAMA! THIS IS YURI KAWAMOTO
FROM JUNIOR HIGH?
KAWAMOTO WAIT

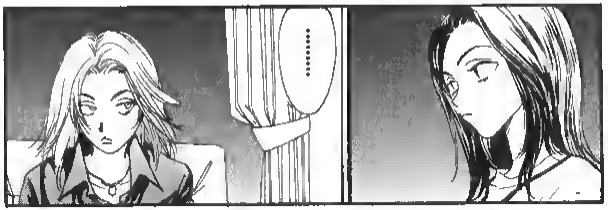
WHY?
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
WHA?
KYOKO'S EX APPEARED
SQUEE
WELL, WAIT UP!
I'LL HELP YOU LOOK
UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENED ON THE WAY
SHE WAS A THREE-MINUTE WALK FROM LOFT WHEN SHE BUMPED INTO ME
I GUESS IT'S BACK TO SHIBUYA FOR ME
SORRY, KOTAROU
BEEP
I DON'T LIKE THIS

YUUTO
どん
OW!

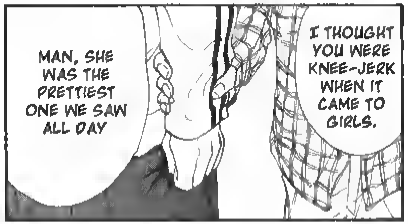

ERR...
SHE TRIED TO STEAL MY BAG THIS AFTERNOON

HEY, ER!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
TELL ME SHE'S NOT WITH YOU

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DEFINE FRIENDSHIP...
...BUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO HER IS WRONG.
AND SHE SAID YOU'RE THE ONES WHO PUSHED HER TO DO IT.


.....

AND THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE IS STARTING TO CREEP ME OUT.
THIS ISN'T LIKE HIM.


MAN, SHE WAS THE PRETTIEST ONE WE SAW ALL DAY
I THOUGHT YOU WERE KNEE-JERK WHEN IT CAME TO GIRLS.

OI.
!
WE'RE GOING!

HUH?!

WHERE'S THAT CRAZY BRAVADO?

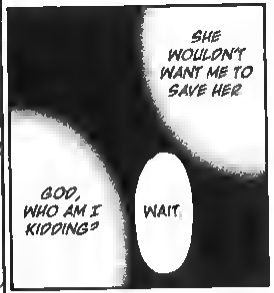
YUUTO...

WHAT'RE YOU AFRAID OF?

WAIT A MINUTE
THIS ISN'T MY BUSINESS
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A GREAT TRACK RECORD OF FACING HER WHEN IT COUNTS

HUH?
THAT'D JUST BE... IRONIC AND SAD
I DON'T WANNA GO

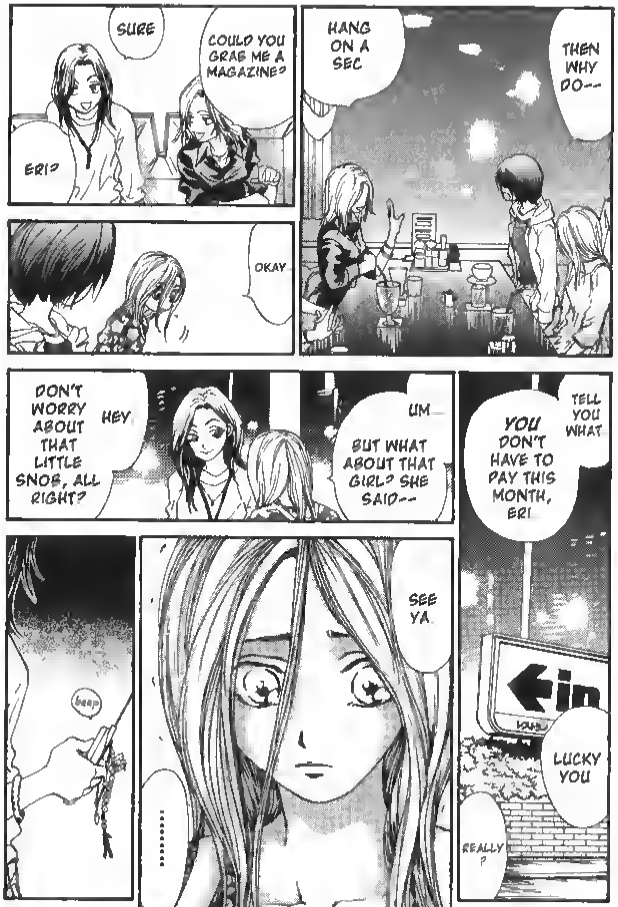
COME ON!
WE'RE WASTING TIME, YUUTO


SHE WOULDN'T WANT ME TO SAVE HER
GOD, WHO AM I KIDDING?
WAIT

MWA HA HA!
WINDOW CLOSING!
DAMSEL-RESCUE IT IS!
Does this mean he's okay?!
AND I'M AS BAD AS I EVER WAS.
!!!
LEGGO OF--
AND AN AUDIENCE GREAT.
GEH.
WAIT A SEC, TATSUKI.
WE'LL BE FINE
COULD YOU HELP US LOOK FOR--
crea
Hn.

H-HE'S LIME GREEN!
KOTAROU.
YOU REALLY DO CARE
Heh
WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT BEFORE?
I THOUGHT HE REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE
I'M SUCH A MORON

ACT 13


SURE
COULD YOU GRAB ME A MAGAZINE?
ERI?
OKAY
HANG ON A SEC
THEN WHY DO---
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT LITTLE SNOB, ALL RIGHT?
HEY
UM...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL? SHE SAID---
TELL YOU WHAT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY THIS MONTH, ERI
LUCKY YOU
REALLY?
beep
SEE YA
.....

トゥトゥン
WE'LL BE NEAR LOFT IN SHIBUYA, TATSUKI.
I SAID WE'RE FINE
SERIOUSLY
.....
YUUTO'S FRIEND IS MISSING YUUTO'S BAILED YOU OUT A BUNCH OF TIMES, HASN'T HE?

AND YEAH, MAYBE ACCEPTING ERI'S MONEY'S A LITTLE RUDE
OH, C'MON
YOU BARELY KNOW US

ACT 14

NO, SERIOUSLY-- YOU CAN HAVE HER.
KNOCK YOURSELF OUT, BUDDY.
Heh.
HERE'S A HINT
SHE'S A REAL LITTLE PRINCESS
OF COURSE SHE'S HOT! TOTALLY YOUR TYPE
SHIN! HOW ARE YA, TIGER?
GOT SOME-THING FOR YOU.
HM?
NAH, EVEN BETTER ♡

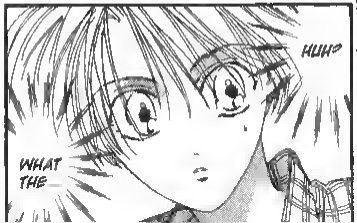
ACT 13 * END

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW. I PROMISE

I SWEAR I'LL NEVER RUN AWAY AGAIN.
hmm

YIKES
SORRY

WE SAW HER AROUND HERE EARLIER.
mutmut
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST GO TO LOFT?
mutmut
I GUESS


HUH?
WHAT THE—

KYOKO.
.. YOU REACHED OUT AND TAUGHT ME HOW TO LIVE
WHEN I COULDN'T GROW UP—

BUT IN THE END, I STILL RAN AWAY.

I WAS A CHILD UNTIL THE LAST DAY I SAW YOU.

WHICH WOULD MEAN..
CRAP.
KOTAROU, I THINK SHE'S GOING TO KILL HERSELF.
BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BLACK AURA GETS BIGGER AND BIGGER?
WEIRD.
BL_CK'S THE COLOR THAT REFLECTS-- NO, ABSORBS ALL LIGHT, RIGHT?
SO MAYBE IT EATS UP COLORED AURAS.
GOD, WE CAN NEVER JUST GO OUT!
HURRY! STOP HER!
WHAT?!

EXCUSE ME
UM
E-EXCUSE
WHA?
SHE'S CRYING.
WE'VE GOTTA GO
RIGHT
!
KOTAROU
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT'S WRONG?
MM
HOO BOY
I'M SORRY...
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY
I'M F-FINE
AND I'M EITHER SEEING THINGS OR IT'S GETTING DARKER.
THAT'S ONE NASTY MIX OF BROWN AND GRAY.

EH, WHY NOT?
CRYING GIRL AT TWO O'CLOCK.
WAIT A MINUTE
NO FIGHTS, NO FREAK-OUTS, NO FUN
THIS BITES
フラ
IT'S AS IF ALL THE LIGHT HAS GONE OUT OF THEM. SHE'S NOT SEEING ANYTHING
WOW.
SHE LOOKS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT THOSE EYES
IT'S THE DELECTABLE KAREN!
♡
!
GOD IN HEAVEN!

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE GIRL
KYOKO'S TOUGH-- SHE CAN HOLD OUT A LITTLE LONGER
SHE'S GOTTA BE HERE SOME-WHERE
ISM O FOR 2 TODAY
DAMMIT!
WE LOST HER
IT'S NO USE KOTAROU
BUT SHE'S IN TROUBLE TOO, RIGHT?
NO
I'LL KEEP LOOKING, YOU FIND KYOKO!

HMPH

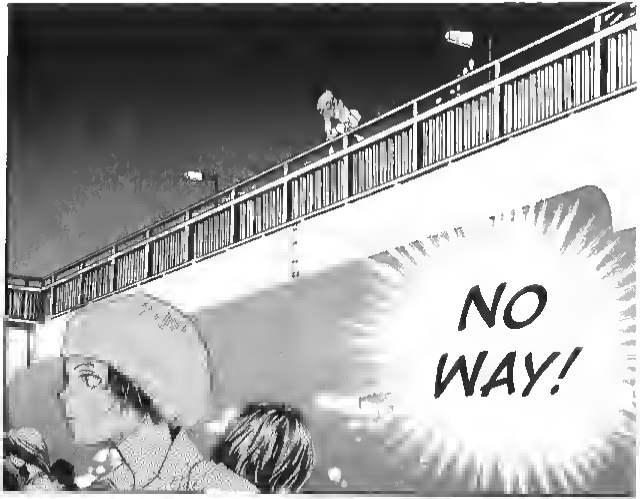
YUUTO'S GOT A SIXTH SENSE.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
SIXTH SENSE?
THE PLAYBOY'S GIFTED TOO?!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME
!!
YOU GO EAST, I'LL--
MAYBE WE SHOULD SPLIT UP.
haa
SHE'S GONE AGAIN!
haah

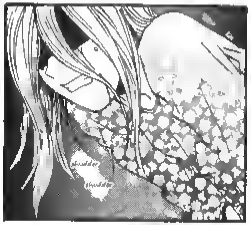
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN A GIRL IN A FLOWERED DRESS, HAVE YOU?
HEY!
BUT I TOLD YOU MY NAME!
!
YEAH. SHE WENT THAT WAY.
WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON?
THANKS!
DUCK
WELL, IF IT ISN'T CASA-NOVA
I'M NEVER SURE
BUT I'M USUALLY RIGHT.
HA?
HUH?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ARE YOU SURE?
WE'RE AFRAID SHE MAY HURT HERSELF

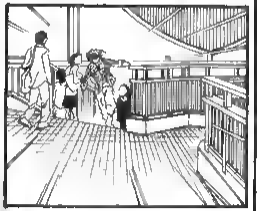
BE CAREFUL OR I MIGHT GET ATTACHED
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D SHOW, MR. HELPFUL.
I'M NOT IN ANYBODY'S DEBT
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE
YOU'RE WALKING TOO FAST TO—
TATSUKI, SLOW DOWN! DID YOU REALLY SEE HER?
HUH?

TATSUKI!
MY LUCKY DAY!
SHE'S NOT THERE.
OKAY.
I WON'T GO THERE, THEN
I TAKE IT YOU SAW HER?
EASY, KID.
JUST FOLLOW HIM
ARGH!
すたすた
YES OR NO, TATSUKI?!
MAYBE

DON'T!


NO WAY!





!
SHE'S TRYING TO KILL HERSELF!

HOLY-- SOMEBODY STOP HER!

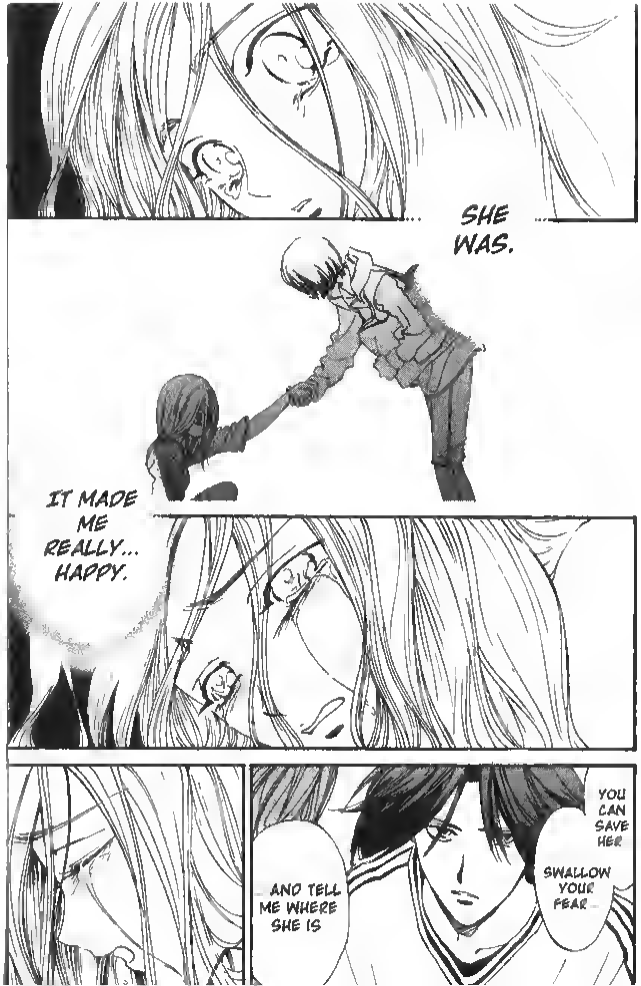
SOMEHOW I DOUBT THAT.
COME ON, GIRL
LOOK, YOU CAN TELL US
I'M OKAY REALLY
N-NO, I'M FINE
SORRY
ビク
HEY
NO
(;o;)
UH...
HUH?
JUST LOOK HIM IN THE EYE AND...
STOP COVERING YOUR FACE.
WE CAN SEE HOW MUCH YOU'RE HURTING.
JUST TELL HIM WHAT'S WRONG.

WHAT?
SHE WAS... N-NICE TO ME
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
DAMMIT!
THANK GOD!
!
HEY! HAIR'S TURNING BLUE-GREEN!
WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT GIRL IS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING.
ARE YOU IN TROUBLE?
I SHOULDN'T'VE BROUGHT HER TO...
NNN!
SHE WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP!
SHE WAS W-WORRIED ABOUT ME

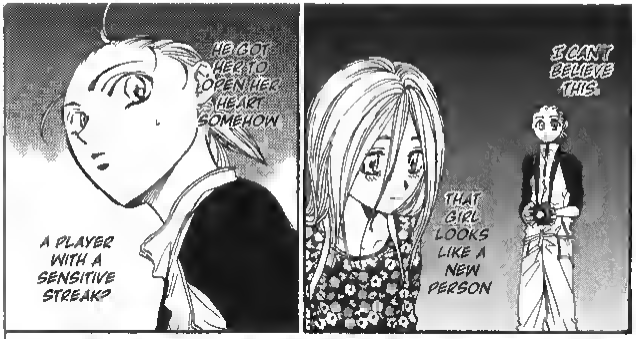
HUH?
WHERE'S KYOKO?
!
TAKE TATSUKI AND GO LOOK FOR--
I'VE GOT IT, YUUTO
SHE'LL BE OKAY.
?
I THINK I GET IT NOW
.....
HER AURA'S PURPLE
BUT IF SHE'S AFRAID
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT OR IT'S OVER, RIGHT?
SHE'S BEING BLACK-MAILED
WAIT
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

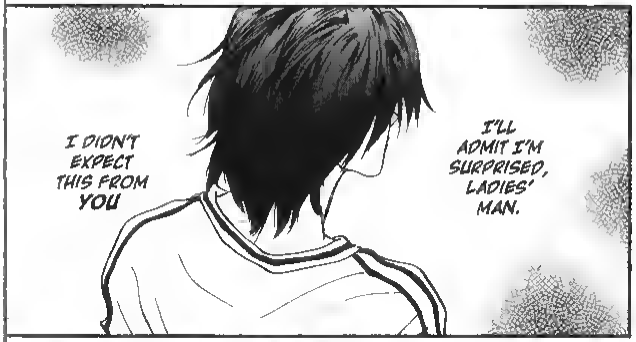
THE CRYING GIRL IS ME?
SHE'S JUST LIKE ME...
"SHE WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP!"
"SHE WAS W-WORRIED ABOUT ME."
"I SHOULDN'T'VE BROUGHT HER TO..."

WHAT IF IT WAS
AND THE ONE WHO HELPED HER...

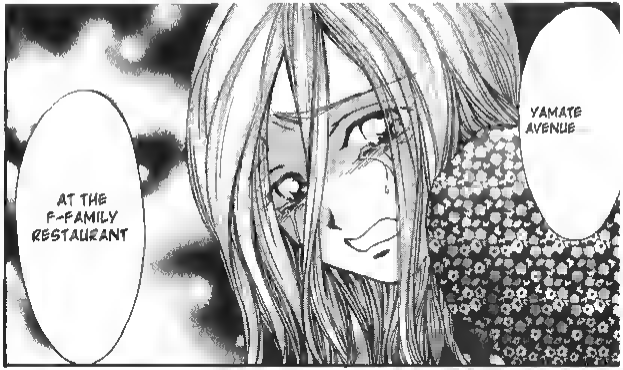

SHE WAS.
IT MADE ME REALLY... HAPPY.
YOU CAN SAVE HER
SWALLOW YOUR FEAR
AND TELL ME WHERE SHE IS

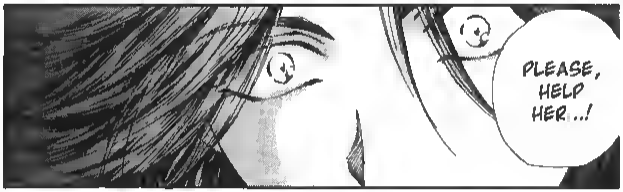
UM...
I DON'T GET IT
HEY.
SHE WAS PRETTY NICE TO YOU, WASN'T SHE?
YOU CAN'T LET OTHER PEOPLE TELL YOU WHAT TO DO
NO ONE WILL RESPECT YOU THAT WAY.
LOOK UP AND FACE THE WORLD, GIRL.

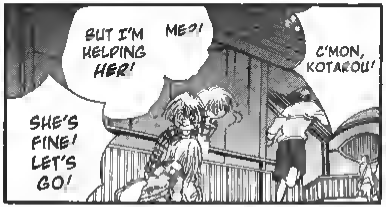

A PLAYER WITH A SENSITIVE STREAK?
HE GOT HER TO OPEN HER HEART SOMEHOW
THAT GIRL LOOKS LIKE A NEW PERSON
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.


I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS FROM YOU
I'LL ADMIT I'M SURPRISED, LADIES' MAN.

HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL
WHICH MEANS ALL THREE OF THEM...


AT THE F-FAMILY RESTAURANT
YAMATE AVENUE


PLEASE, HELP HER...!


BUT I'M HELPING HER!
ME?!
C'MON, KOTAROU!
SHE'S FINE! LET'S GO!

SHE DOESN'T NEED US ANYMORE
SHE LOOKED ME IN THE EYE

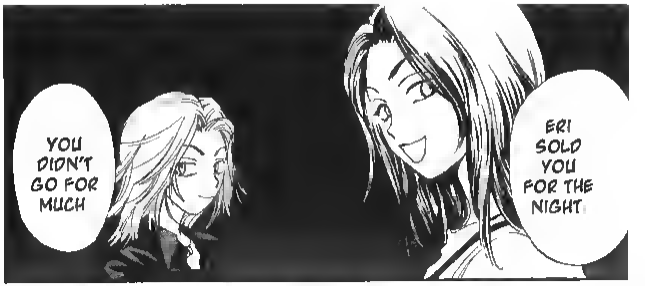
THANK YOU

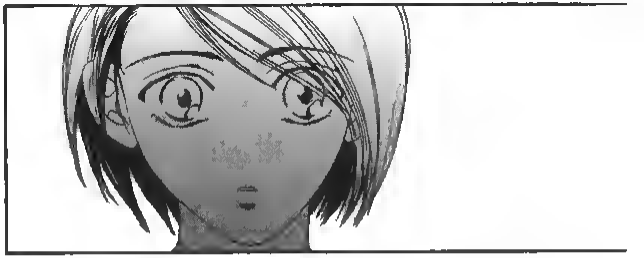
WHERE'S ERI?
SHE LEFT AGES AGO.
IS SHE NOT COMING BACK?
HUH?
I THINK IT'S TIME TO GO
.....
JUST WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF, BITCH.
WAIT A MINUTE!
DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO HER? I'M TALKING TO YOU!
HEH HEH

HE WAS JUST KEEPING IT WARM FOR YOU!
OVER HERE, MY SWEET!
!!
CAN I SIT HERE?
KAREN WANTS TO COME!
WAIT!
VRRR
VRRR
TAKE ME WITH YOU!
SOOO..
NOW
.....
WHAT?
See you there!
HEY!
STUPID ASSWIPE!
GET A LICENSE OR A 10-SPEED..
Only 15
CAN I RIDE WITH YOU?
PLEASE

YOU TWO DISGUST ME!
YOU MAKE A LITTLE GIRL PAY TO BE YOUR FRIEND!
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK SHE'S THE COWARD HERE?!
WHOA
THE BITCH IS NUTS!
WHAT KIND OF HORRIBLE, PATHETIC COWARDS ARE YOU?!

!
WHAT THE--?!
キィッ
THERE'S THE PLACE


YOU DIDN'T GO FOR MUCH
ERI SOLD YOU FOR THE NIGHT



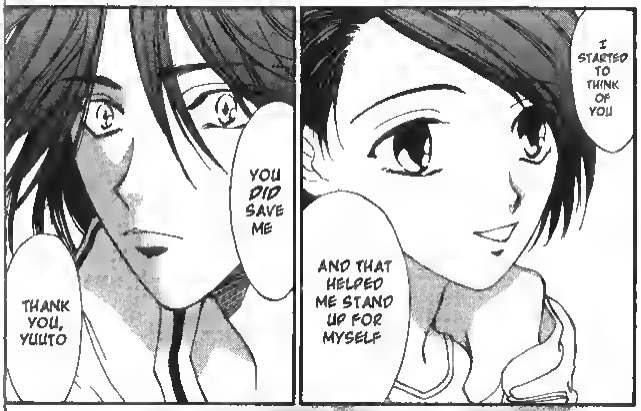
YOU
WE WHAT?
SHE ALWAYS DOES
BUT HEY, SHE DID IT ANYWAY
GOOD OLD ERI! HA HA!
WE'VE GOTTA PAY THE BILLS SOMEHOW, Y'KNOW
WE GAVE HER THE OPTION--PAY US OR LEAVE YOU.
POOR THING WASN'T THRILLED WITH THAT

IS IT KYOKO'S ?!
THAT'S AN AURA!
AND WHY IS IT--
YAGH!
?!
!
HEY!
badum
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
MAYBE SHE'S IN TROUBLE
IT AIMED RIGHT FOR ME

WHAT IS THAT ?!
EMERALD GREEN?!

ACT 14

LOOK
...SOMETHING COOL HAPPENED
UM, WHEN I GOT IN TROUBLE
THAT'S FUNNY--I CAN'T GET MY KNEES TO STOP SHAKING
I LOOK CALM?


YOU DID SAVE ME
THANK YOU, YUUTO
I STARTED TO THINK OF YOU
AND THAT HELPED ME STAND UP FOR MYSELF

I LIKE THIS ONE

YUUTO.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
KYOKO!
ARE YOU OKAY?!

BUT THEN I LOST MY TEMPER
AH...
WELL, I ALMOST WAS

I THINK I SCARED THEM OFF, BECAUSE THEY LEFT.
IT GOT PRETTY UGLY

はー
JEEZ...I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU MAD. YOU LOOK CALM ENOUGH FOR SURGERY.
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU WOULDN'T NEED ME

ME?
WAH!!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE, LIKE... DESPERATELY IN NEED OF A RESCUE!

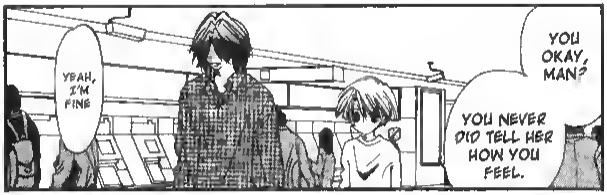
GOOD
K
KYOKO?
YOU REALLY ARE BETTER
HM?
AND YUUTO?
!!
MM
DON'T HIDE THOSE PRETTY EYES
BUT I'D SAY SHE HAD A PRETTY EXCITING TRIP TO TOKYO
Hooonk
SHE LIVES IN KOBE NOW

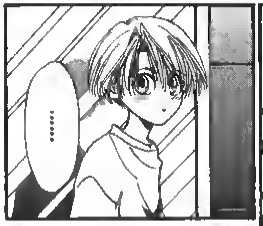
THANKS FOR THAT
NOW I CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT
YOU TOO, KOTAROU
SURE
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU HELPED OUT THAT GIRL
I FELT KINDA BAD, COMPLICATING HER SITUATION WITH THOSE "FRIENDS" OF HERS
THE NEXT DAY
新横浜
SHIN-YOKOHAMA STA
OH, THAT'S ME
TRAIN ON PLATFORM THREE
SEE YOU LATER!
I think he's yanking your chain. Believe me. I've checked
ARE YOU REALLY SURE HE'S A BOY?
I CAN HEAR YOU!
.....
?

AFTERWORD

THE EXCLUSIVE STORY...

...ON THE OOHIRA FAMILY'S BIGGEST SECRETS!





*STRICKEN FROM THE RECORD

前言
KOTAROU, LET'S TALK TO THAT ONE!
HOTTIE ALERT! HOTTIE ALERT!
THAT GIRL'S GOT MORE CURVES THAN A HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE!
NEVER MIND!
* ACT 14 END

I RAN OUT OF TIME, SO I DREW ALL THREE PSYCHICS ON A SINGLE GREETING CARD!*
MY NAME IS KASANE KATSUMOTO
AND I'M SORRY ABOUT THE PROMOTION COMPETITION!
GO AHEAD
* I MEAN, PEOPLE SEND VALENTINE GREETING CARDS, CHRISTMAS CARDS, BIRTHDAY CARDS, EVEN CARDS APOLOGIZING FOR SHIT. HAVING THE CARD DEPICTION OF THREE FOR HER MAGAZINE'S PROMOTION
IT IS INDEED! BUT I COMPLETELY LACK DETAILS
IN OTHER NEWS, IS IT TRUE THAT "HANOS OPP!" WILL BE CUTTING A DRAMA CD?
I'M ESPECIALLY SORRY FOR THOSE WHO WANTED NOTHING MORE IN LIFE THAN THREE SEPARATE CARDS
PLEASE FORGIVE MY FAILURE AND ACCEPT MY REDOUBLED EFFORTS ON THE COMIC AS MY PENANCE!
Please contact Katsumoto-sensei at the editorial department if you participated in the competition but never received a card
How very unprofessional
Ah
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR DEFEATIST ATTITUDE!
UNTIL NEXT TIME.
ENJOY THE CD, IF YOU CAN ENJOY SOMETHING THAT MAY NEVER EXIST!
How exciting!
HEY, NO WORRIES-- I'LL BE SURE TO WOW AUDIENCES ONCE I'M OUT OF TRACTION
ST MONKY

TODAY (09/17/93) I RECEIVED THE CAST AUDITION TAPE. THE BOYS SOUND GREAT! FEEL FREE TO GET EXCITED. -KATSUMOTO

* AFTERWORD * END

HOW FAR'VE YOU GONE WITH MIO?
HEY, KIO
YEAH?
GOT A QUESTION FOR YA
I don't like that face.
FINE THEN HOW FAR'VE YOU GONE WITH TATSU--
SHUT UP AND LET GO!
Look at him squirm!
LET'S HEAR IT
I'M NOT ANSWERING THAT!
WHA
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, LETCH!
DON'T BE SUCH A SPAZ
I'M ALIVE-- JUST CALL 911!
HE HAD A GOOD HEART
FORGIVE THE INTRUSION, BUT IT'S TIME FOR A CONFESSION
YUUTO!

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